NO. 21

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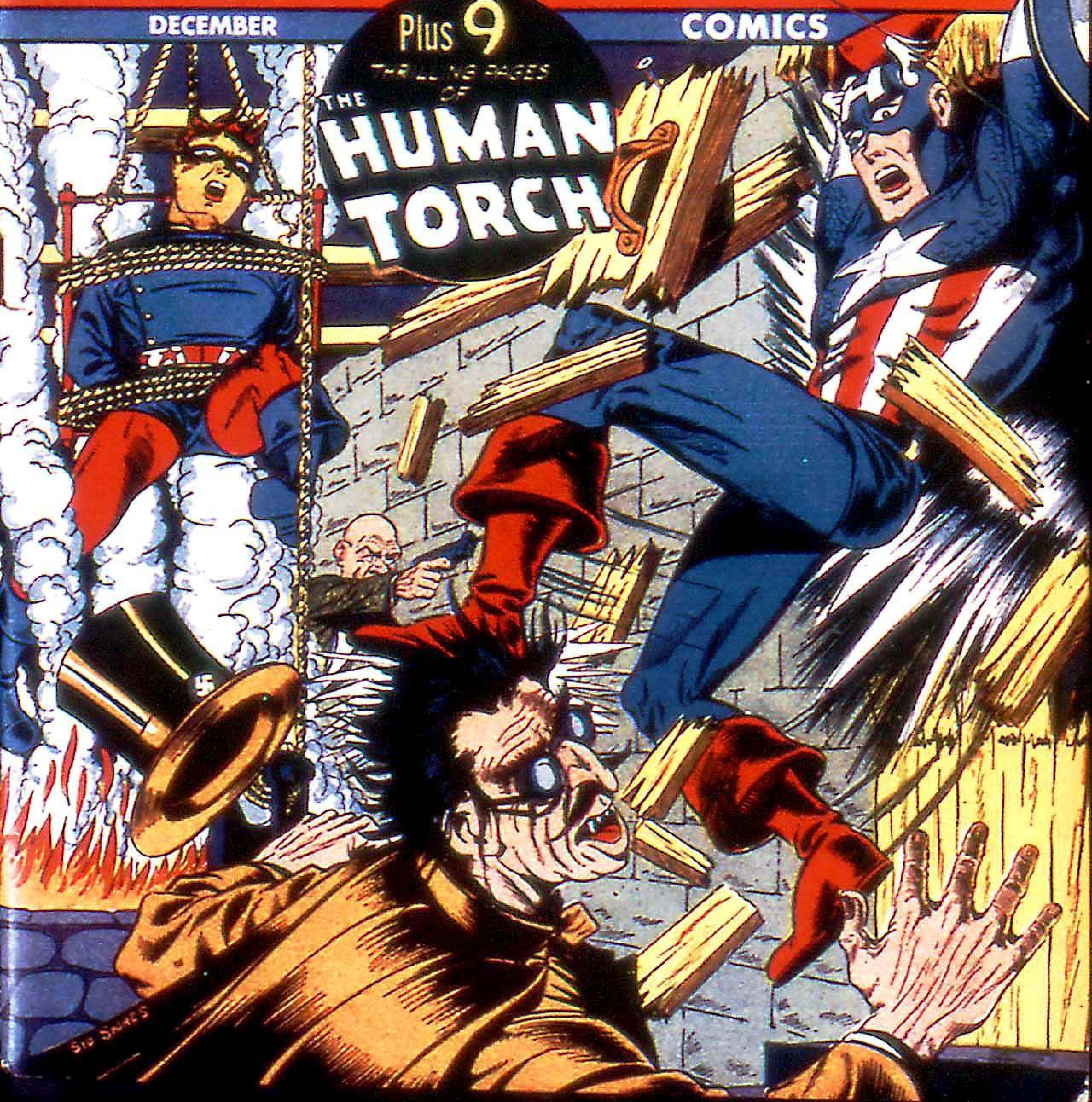
CAPTAIN AMERICA

DECEMBER

COMICS


Plus 9
THRILLING PAGES
OF
THE HUMAN TORCH
SID SHORES

CAPTAIN AMERICA

NEW! DIFFERENT! EXCITING!

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Stan Lee,
Managing Editor

Number 21

Syd Shores
Associate Editor

FOR DEFENSE
BUY
UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

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KRAZY Comics
TERRYTOONS Comics
COMEDY Comics
AMERICA's FUNNIEST THREE!

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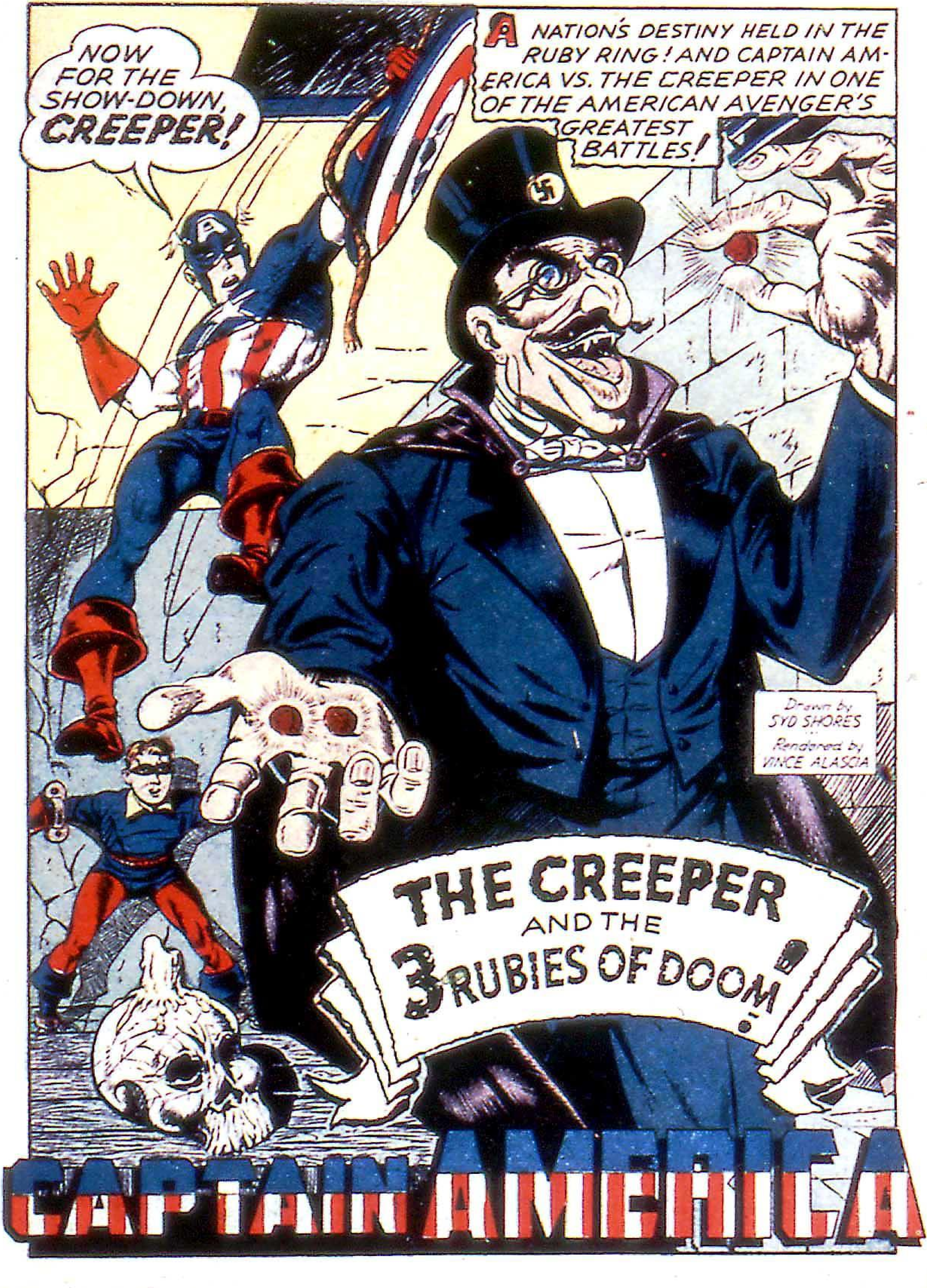
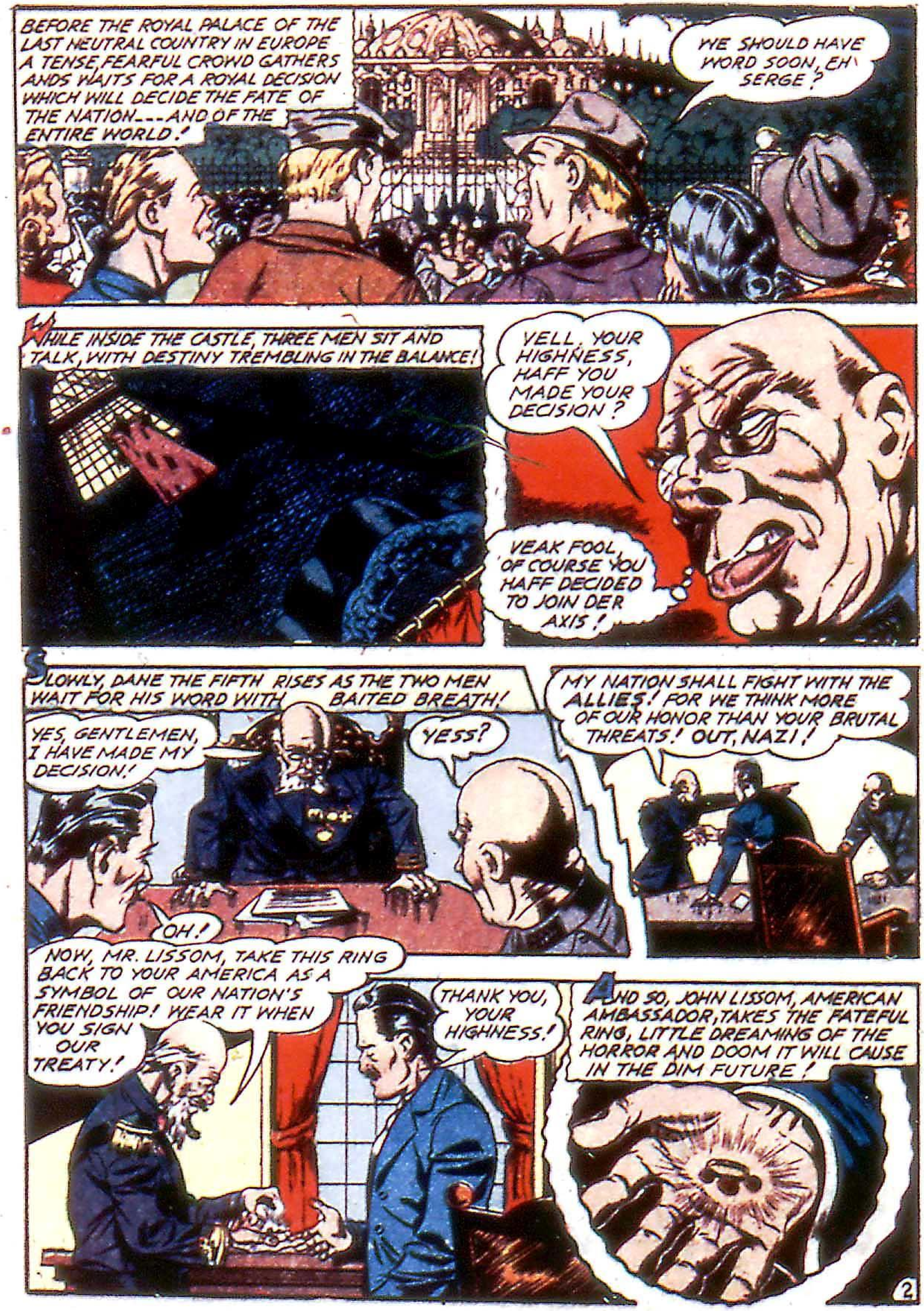
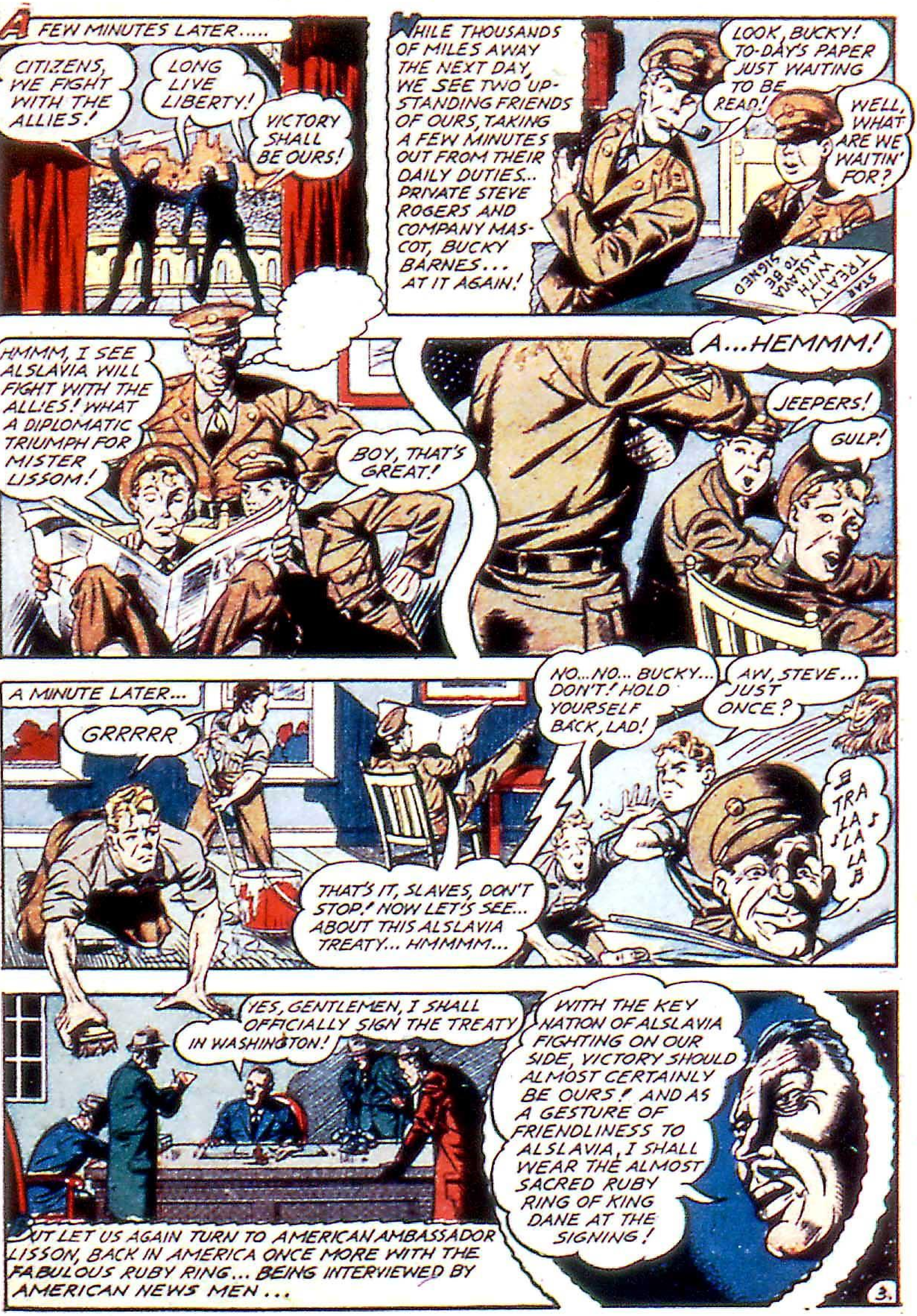
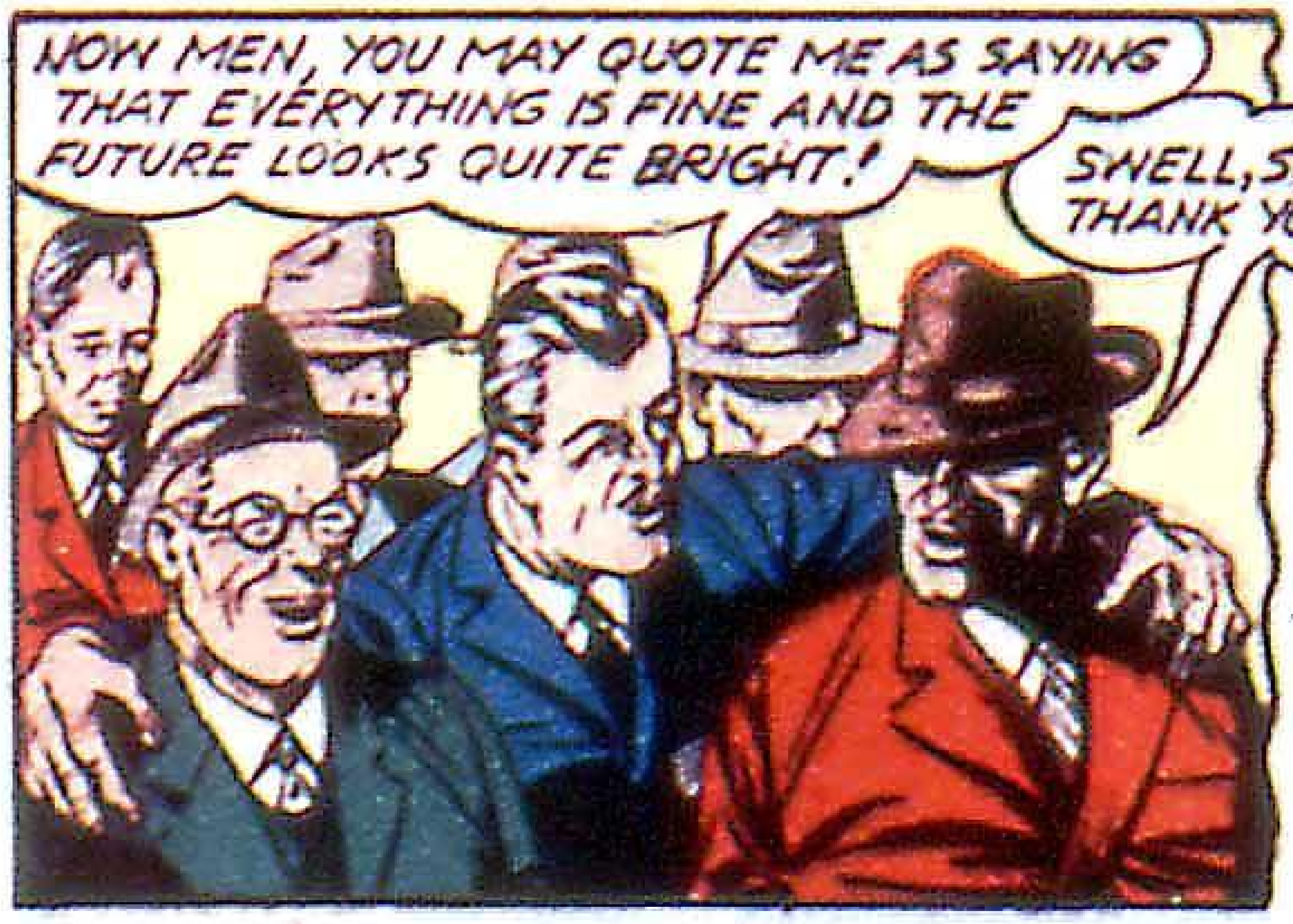
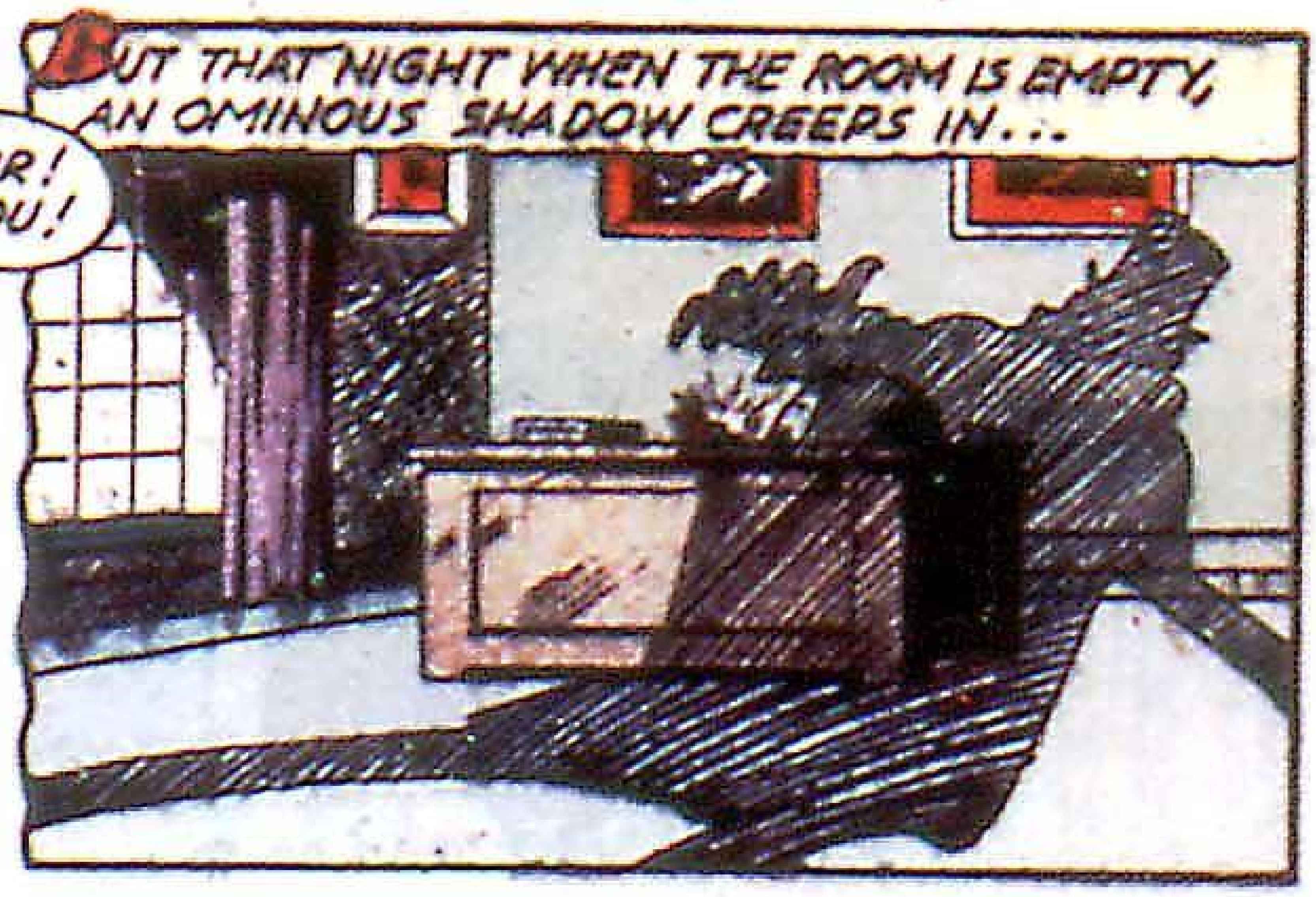
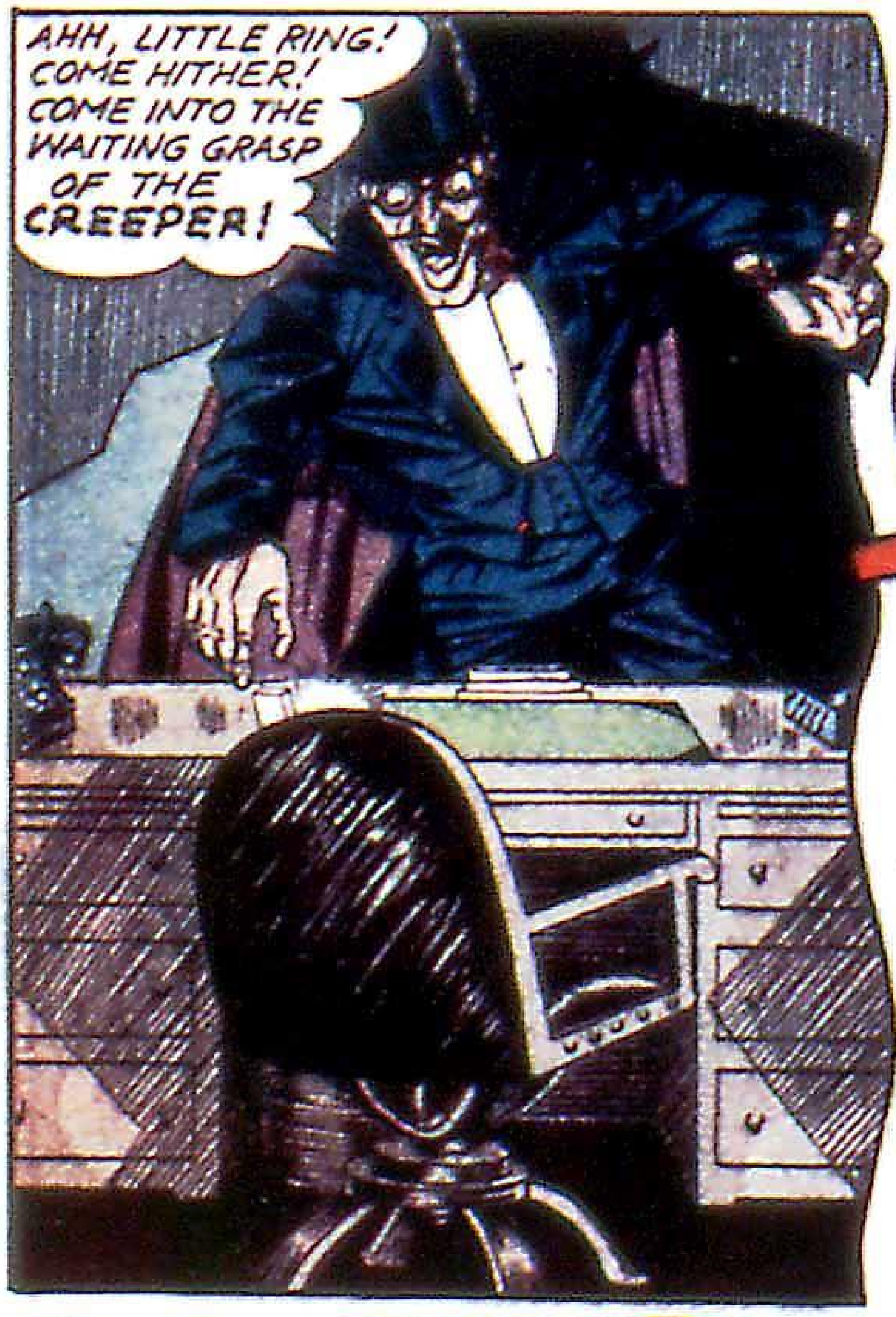

NOW FOR THE SHOW-DOWN, CREEPER!
A NATION'S DESTINY HELD IN THE RUBY RING! AND CAPTAIN AMERICA VS. THE CREEPER IN ONE OF THE AMERICAN AVENGER'S GREATEST BATTLES!
Drawn by SYD SHORES
Rendered by VINCE ALASCIA
THE CREEPER AND THE 3 RUBIES OF DOOM!
CAPTAIN AMERICA

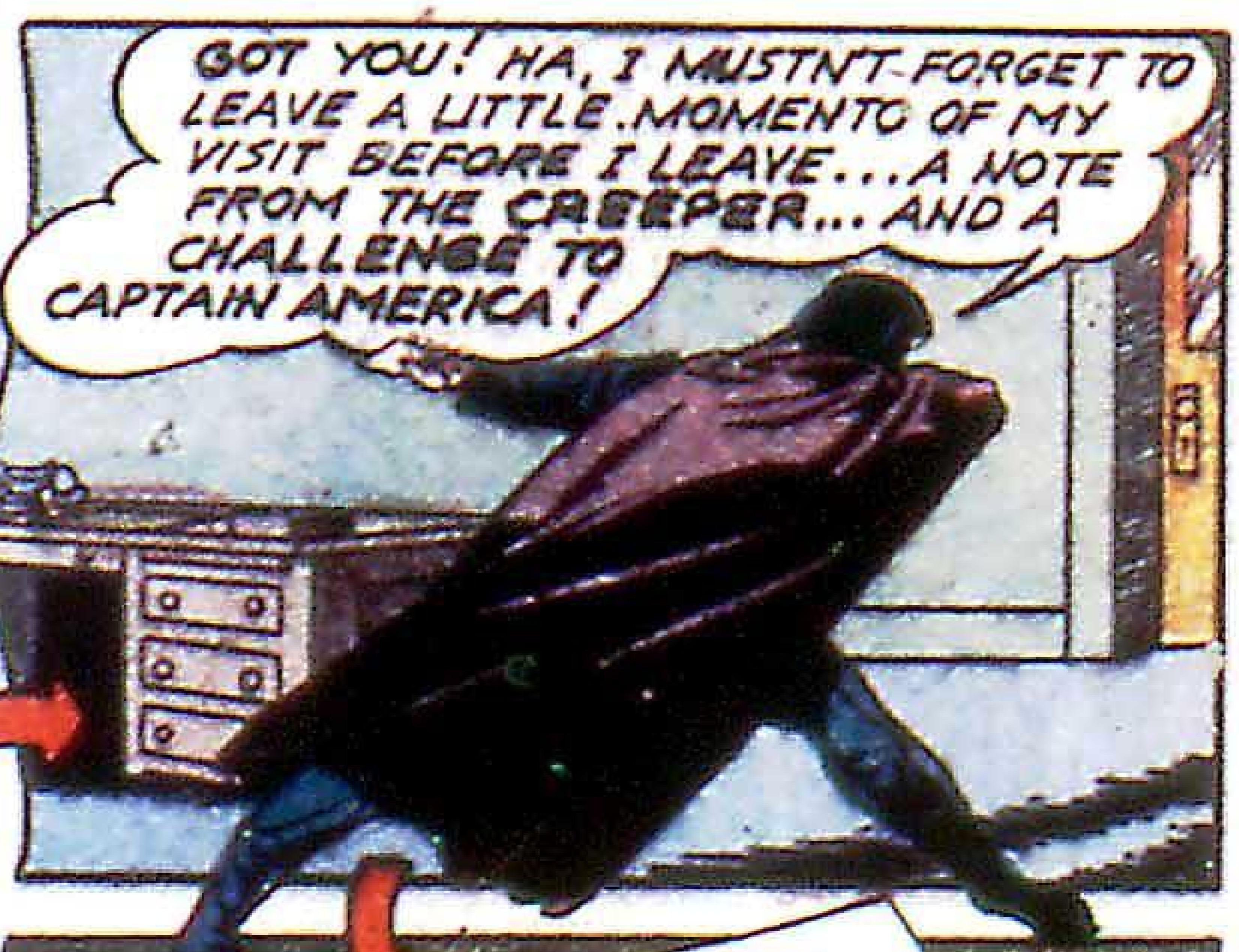

BEFORE THE ROYAL PALACE OF THE LAST NEUTRAL COUNTRY IN EUROPE A TENSE, FEARFUL CROWD GATHERS ANDS WAITS FOR A ROYAL DECISION WHICH WILL DECIDE THE FATE OF THE NATION--- AND OF THE ENTIRE WORLD!
WE SHOULD HAVE WORD SOON, EH SERGE?
WHILE INSIDE THE CASTLE, THREE MEN SIT AND TALK, WITH DESTINY TREMBLING IN THE BALANCE!
VELL, YOUR HIGHNESS, HAFF YOU MADE YOUR DECISION?
VEAK FOOL, OF COURSE YOU HAFF DECIDED TO JOIN DER AXIS!
SLOWLY, DANE THE FIFTH RISES AS THE TWO MEN WAIT FOR HIS WORD WITH BAITED BREATH!
YES, GENTLEMEN, I HAVE MADE MY DECISION!
YESS?
OH!
MY NATION SHALL FIGHT WITH THE ALLIES! FOR WE THINK MORE OF OUR HONOR THAN YOUR BRUTAL THREATS! OUT, NAZI!
NOW, MR. LISSOM, TAKE THIS RING BACK TO YOUR AMERICA AS A SYMBOL OF OUR NATION'S FRIENDSHIP! WEAR IT WHEN YOU SIGN OUR TREATY!
THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS!
AND SO, JOHN LISSOM, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, TAKES THE FATEFUL RING, LITTLE DREAMING OF THE HORROR AND DOOM IT WILL CAUSE IN THE DIM FUTURE!

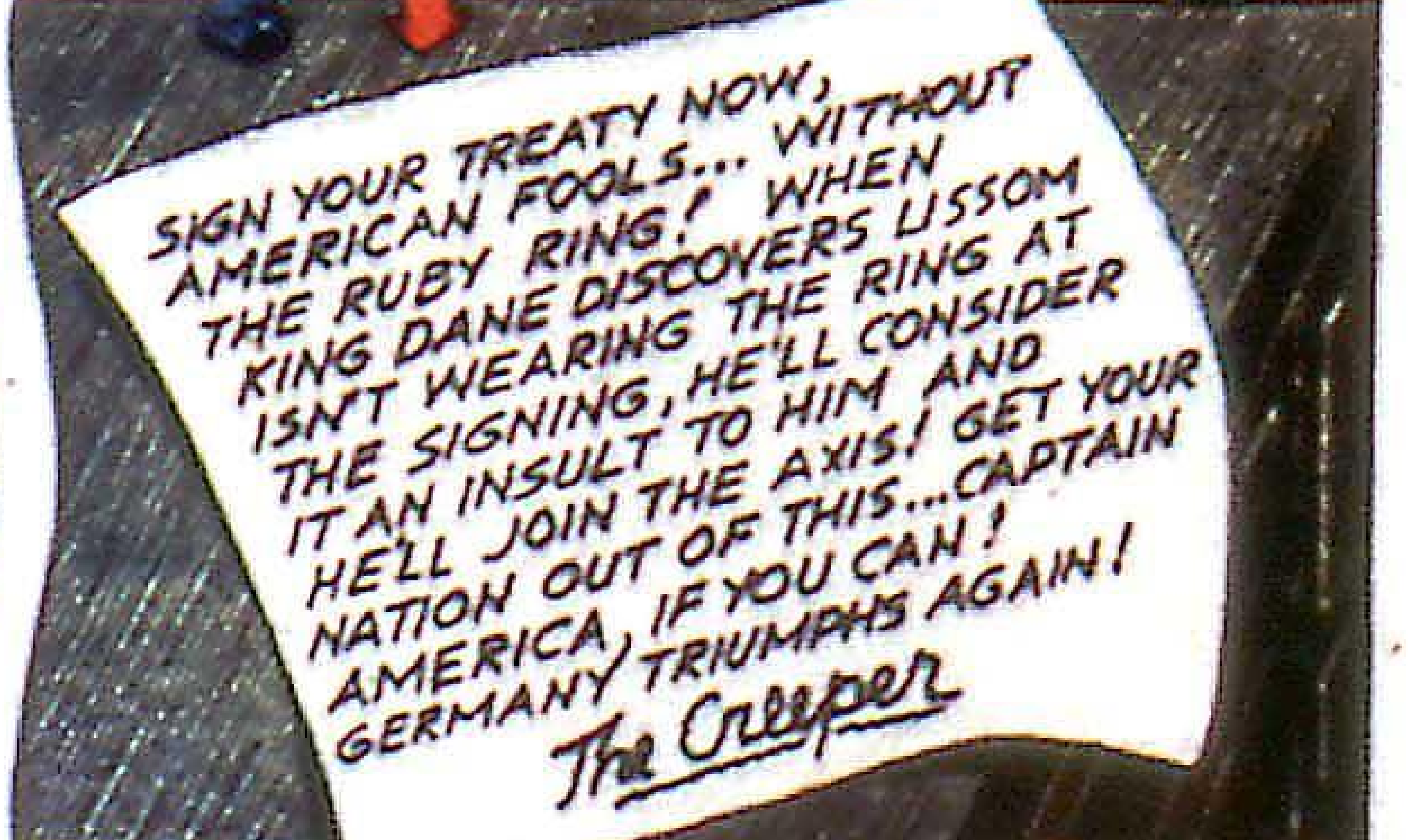

A FEW MINUTES LATER.....
CITIZENS, WE FIGHT WITH THE ALLIES!
LONG LIVE LIBERTY!
VICTORY SHALL BE OURS!
WHILE THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY THE NEXT DAY, WE SEE TWO UPSTANDING FRIENDS OF OURS, TAKING A FEW MINUTES OUT FROM THEIR DAILY DUTIES... PRIVATE STEVE ROGERS AND COMPANY MASCOT, BUCKY BARNES... AT IT AGAIN!
LOOK, BUCKY! TO-DAY'S PAPER JUST WAITING TO BE READ!
WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR?
STAR TREATY WITH ALSLAVIA TO BE SIGNED
HMMM, I SEE ALSLAVIA WILL FIGHT WITH THE ALLIES! WHAT A DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH FOR MISTER LISSOM!
BOY, THAT'S GREAT!
A...HEMMM!
JEEPERS!
GULP!
A MINUTE LATER...
GRRRRR
NO...NO... BUCKY... DON'T! HOLD YOURSELF BACK, LAD!
AW, STEVE... JUST ONCE?
TRA LA LA LA LA
THAT'S IT, SLAVES, DON'T STOP! NOW LET'S SEE... ABOUT THIS ALSLAVIA TREATY... HMMMM...
YES, GENTLEMEN, I SHALL OFFICIALLY SIGN THE TREATY IN WASHINGTON!
WITH THE KEY NATION OF ALSLAVIA FIGHTING ON OUR SIDE, VICTORY SHOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE OURS! AND AS A GESTURE OF FRIENDLINESS TO ALSLAVIA, I SHALL WEAR THE ALMOST SACRED RUBY RING OF KING DANE AT THE SIGNING!
BUT LET US AGAIN TURN TO AMERICAN AMBASSADOR LISSON, BACK IN AMERICA ONCE MORE WITH THE FABULOUS RUBY RING... BEING INTERVIEWED BY AMERICAN NEWS MEN...

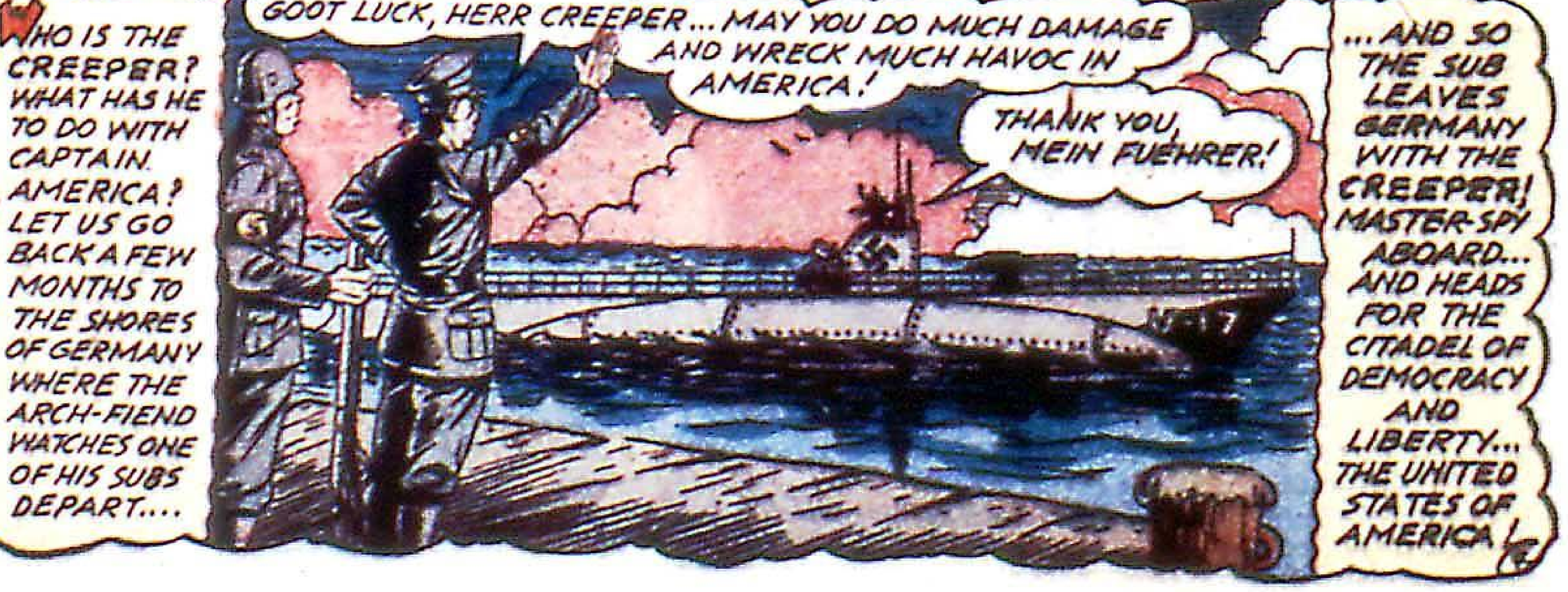

NOW MEN, YOU MAY QUOTE ME AS SAYING THAT EVERYTHING IS FINE AND THE FUTURE LOOKS QUITE BRIGHT!
SWELL, SIR! THANK YOU!

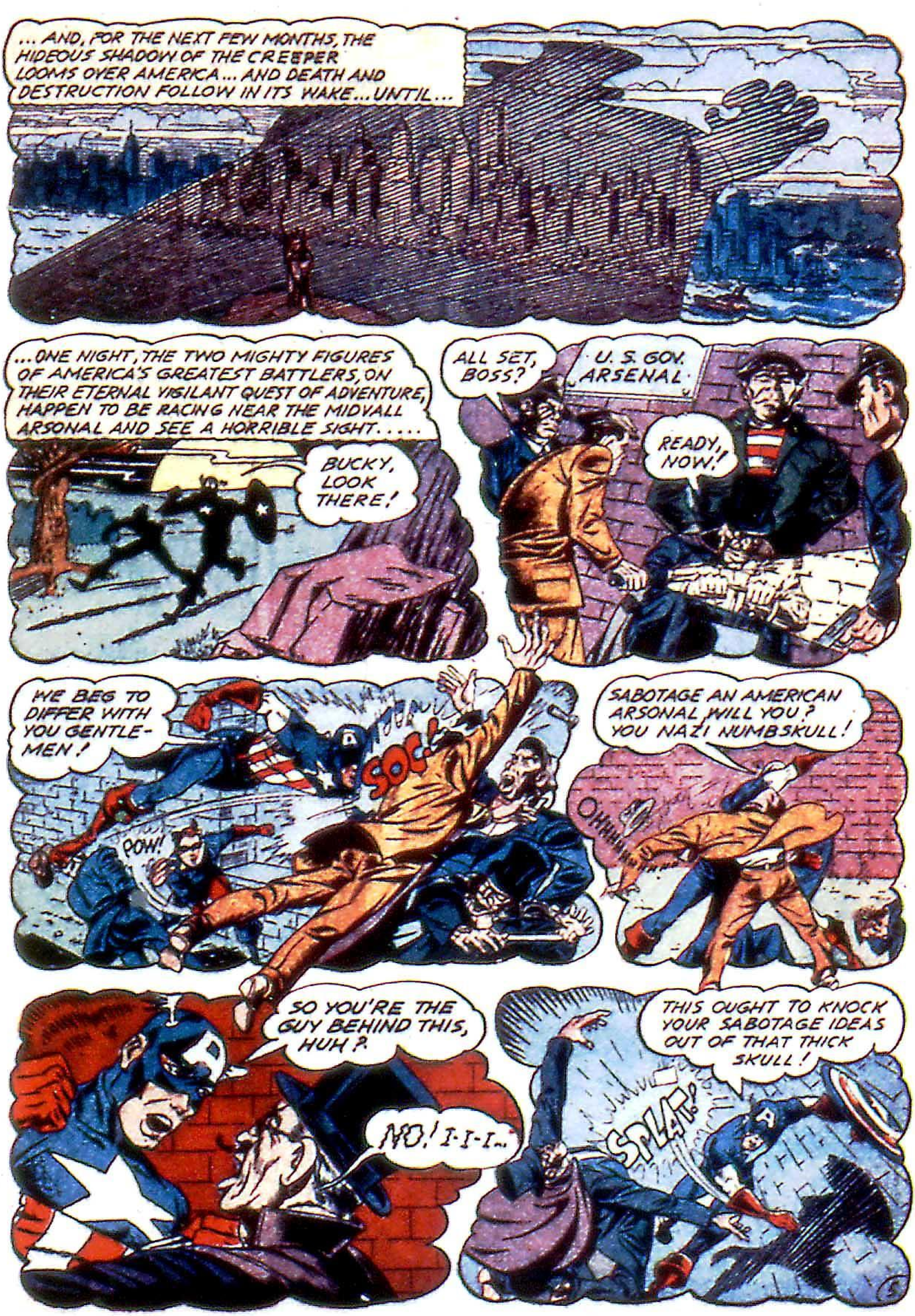

BUT THAT NIGHT WHEN THE ROOM IS EMPTY, AN OMINOUS SHADOW CREEPS IN...

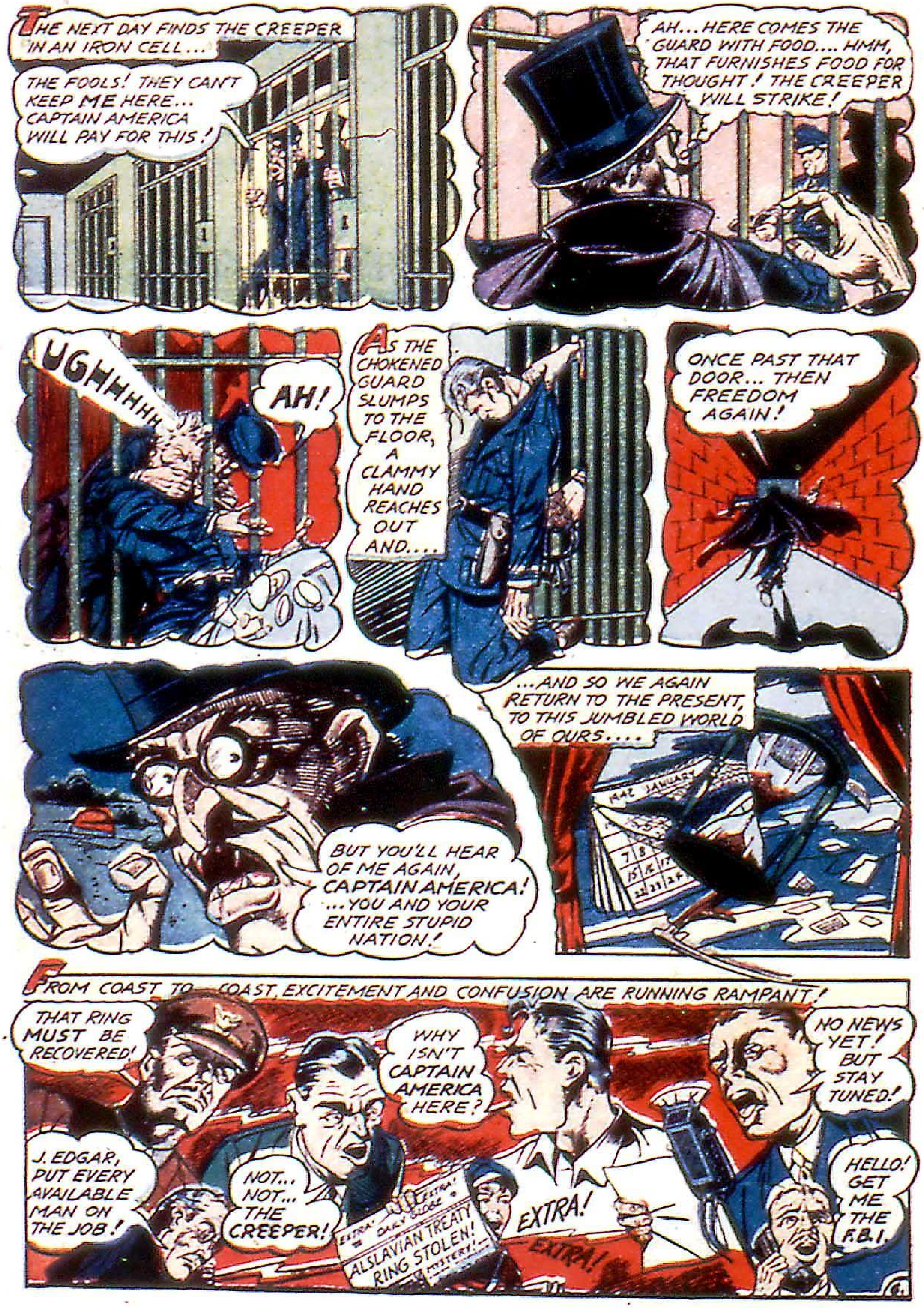

AHH, LITTLE RING! COME HITHER! COME INTO THE WAITING GRASP OF THE CREEPER!

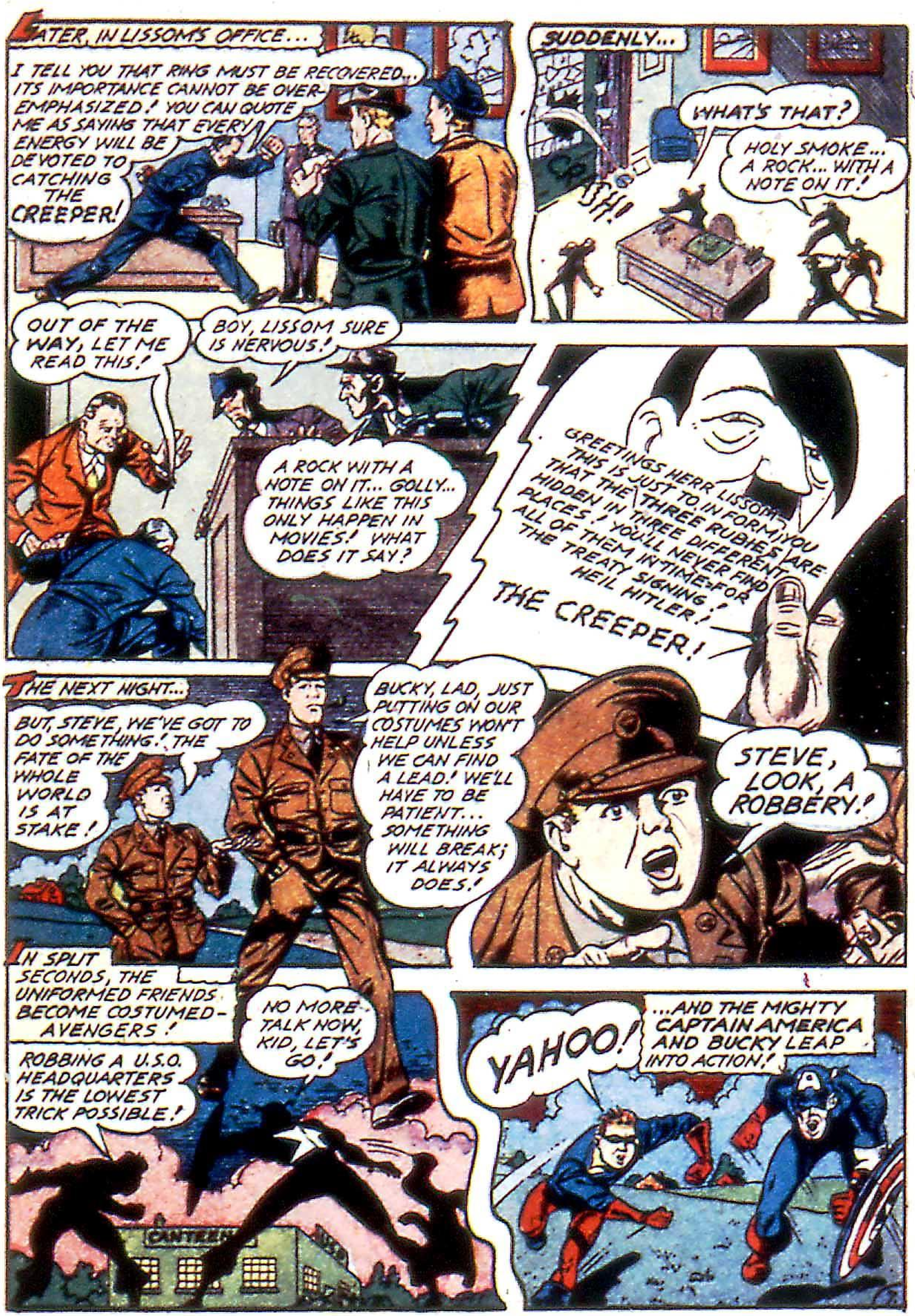

GOT YOU! HA, I MUSTN'T FORGET TO LEAVE A LITTLE MOMENTO OF MY VISIT BEFORE I LEAVE... A NOTE FROM THE CREEPER... AND A CHALLENGE TO CAPTAIN AMERICA!

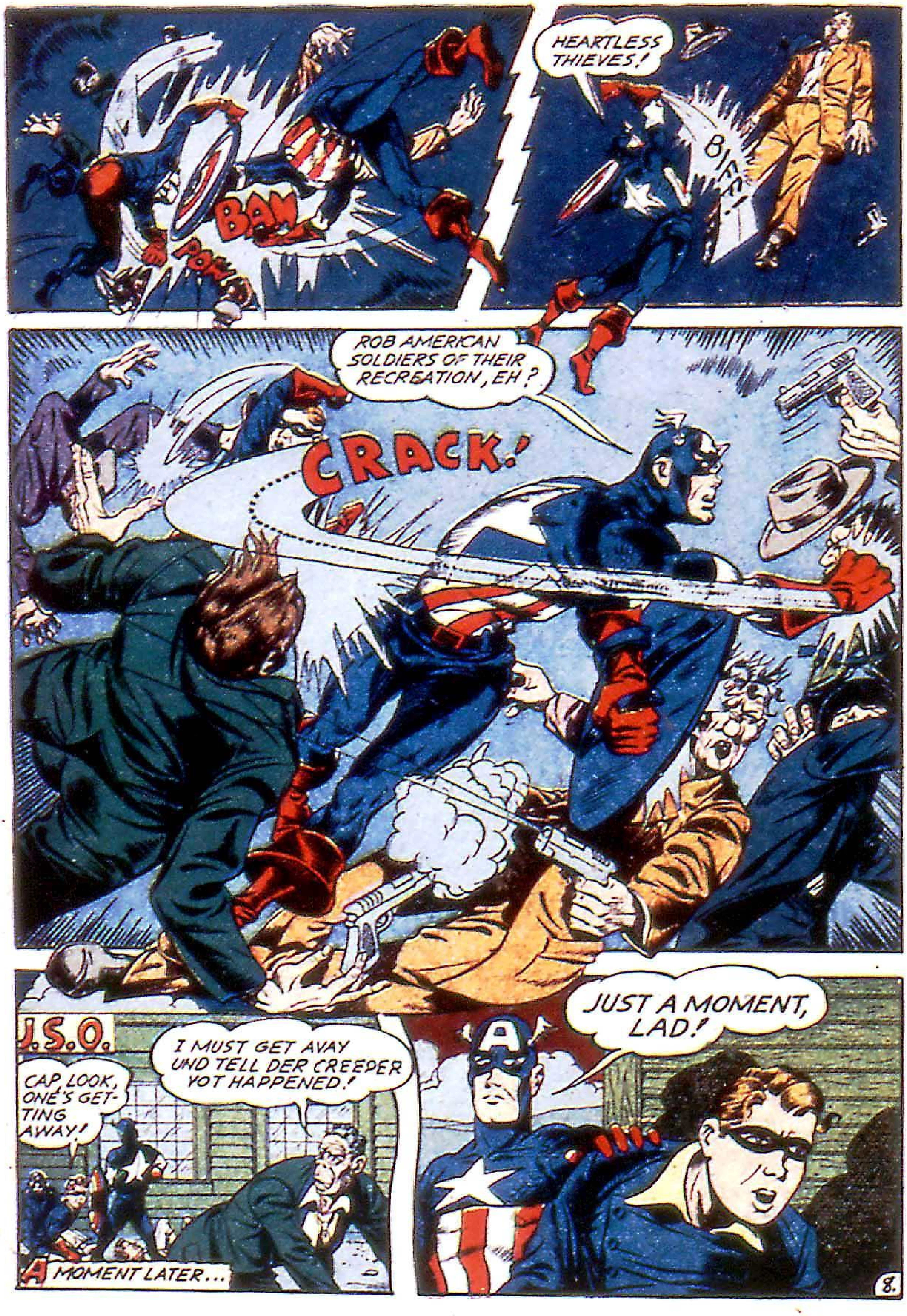

SIGN YOUR TREATY NOW, AMERICAN FOOLS... WITHOUT THE RUBY RING! WHEN KING DANE DISCOVERS LISSOM ISN'T WEARING THE RING AT THE SIGNING, HE'LL CONSIDER IT AN INSULT TO HIM AND HE'LL JOIN THE AXIS! GET YOUR NATION OUT OF THIS...CAPTAIN AMERICA, IF YOU CAN! GERMANY TRIUMPHS AGAIN!
The Creeper

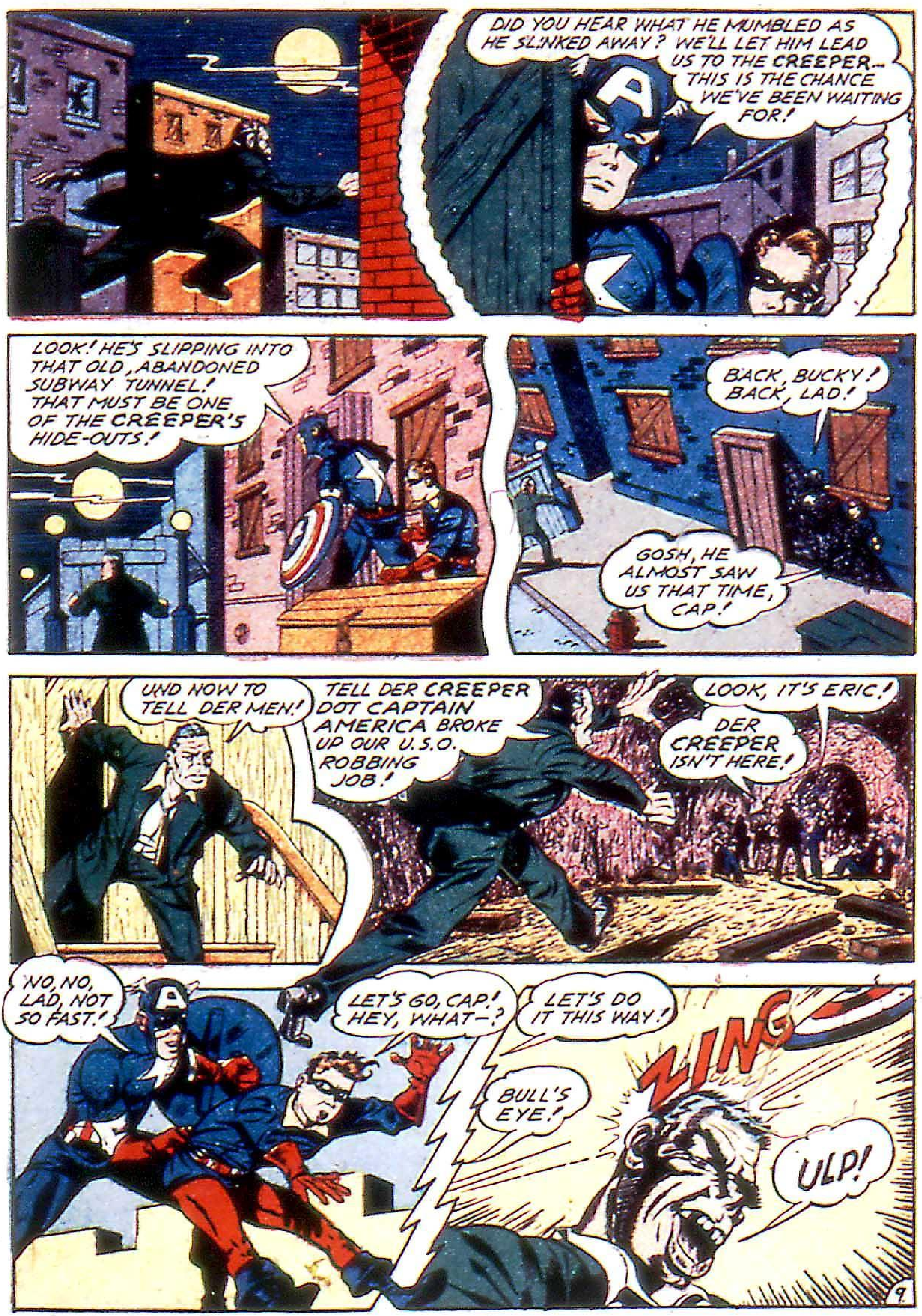

WHO IS THE CREEPER? WHAT HAS HE TO DO WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA? LET US GO BACK A FEW MONTHS TO THE SHORES OF GERMANY WHERE THE ARCH-FIEND WATCHES ONE OF HIS SUBS DEPART....
GOOT LUCK, HERR CREEPER... MAY YOU DO MUCH DAMAGE AND WRECK MUCH HAVOC IN AMERICA!
THANK YOU, MEIN FUEHRER!
...AND SO THE SUB LEAVES GERMANY WITH THE CREEPER! MASTER-SPY ABOARD... AND HEADS FOR THE CITADEL OF DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY... THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

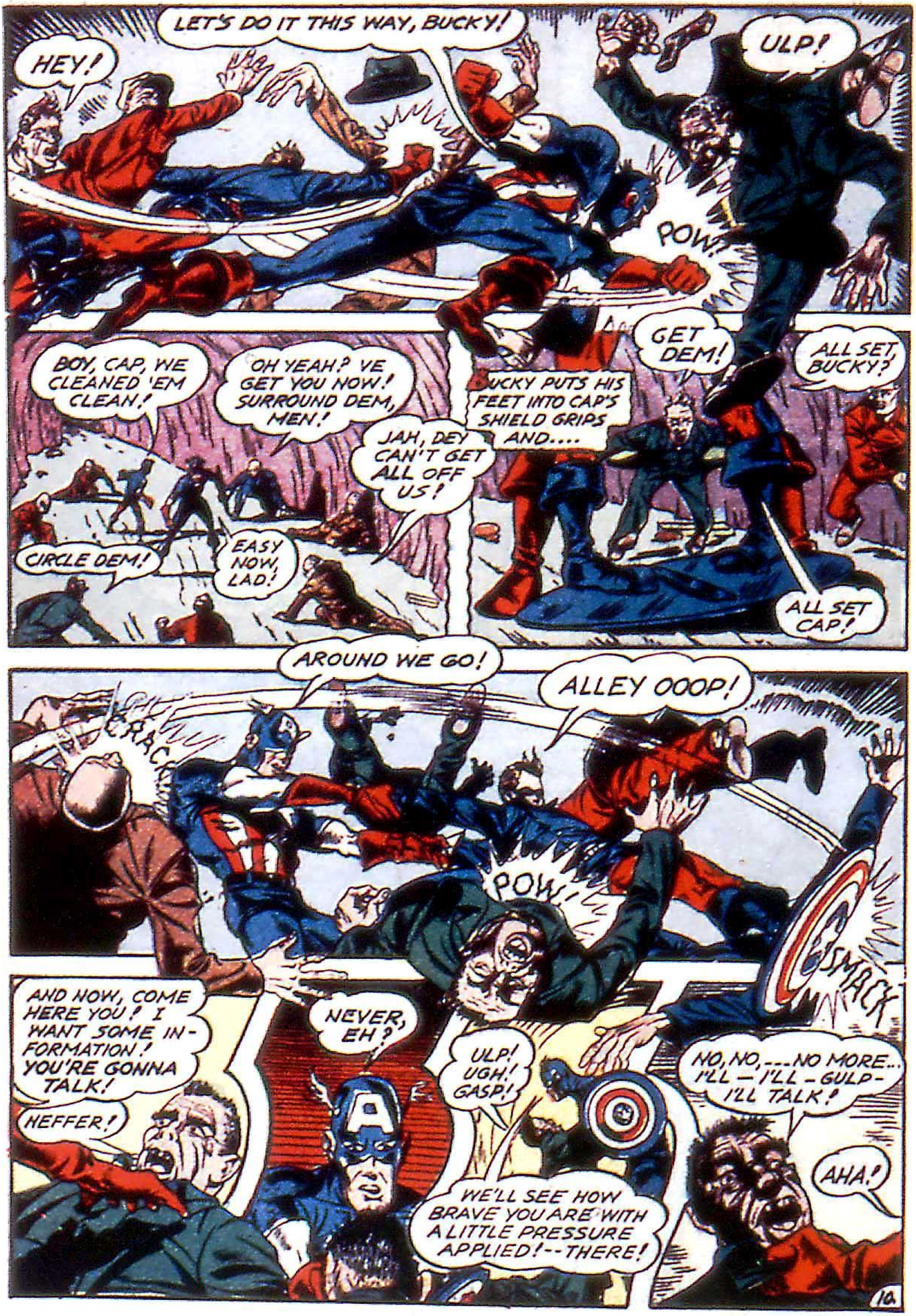

... AND, FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THE HIDEOUS SHADOW OF THE CREEPER LOOMS OVER AMERICA... AND DEATH AND DESTRUCTION FOLLOW IN ITS WAKE... UNTIL...
...ONE NIGHT, THE TWO MIGHTY FIGURES OF AMERICA'S GREATEST BATTLERS, ON THEIR ETERNAL VISILANT QUEST OF ADVENTURE, HAPPEN TO BE RACING NEAR THE MIDVALL ARSONAL AND SEE A HORRIBLE SIGHT.....
BUCKY, LOOK THERE!
ALL SET, BOSS?
U. S. GOV. ARSENAL
READY, NOW!
WE BEG TO DIFFER WITH YOU GENTLEMEN!
SOC!
POW!
SABOTAGE AN AMERICAN ARSONAL WILL YOU? YOU NAZI NUMBSKULL!
OHHHH
SO YOU'RE THE GUY BEHIND THIS, HUH?
NO! I-I-I...
THIS OUGHT TO KNOCK YOUR SABOTAGE IDEAS OUT OF THAT THICK SKULL!
SPLAT!

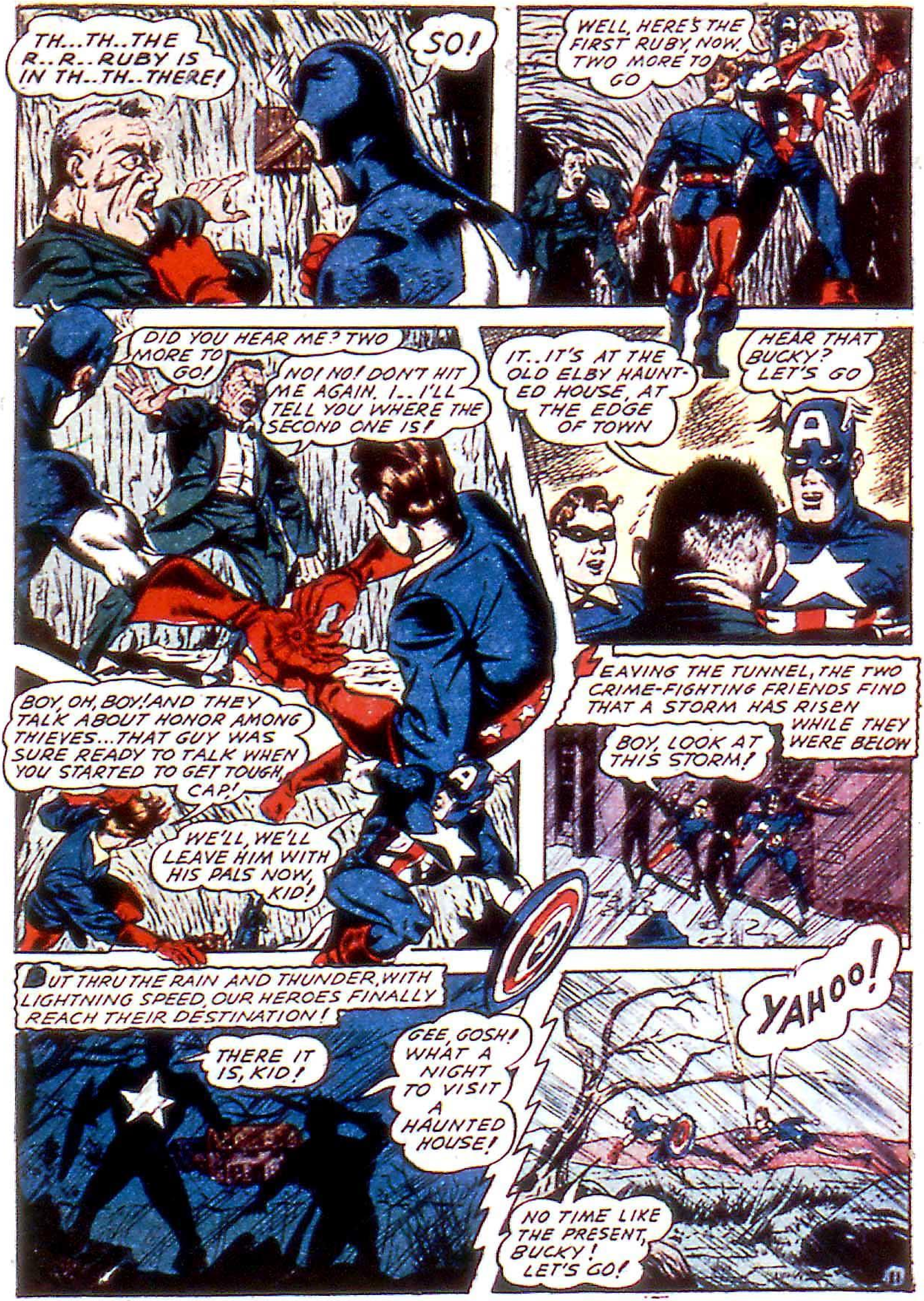

THE NEXT DAY FINDS THE CREEPER IN AN IRON CELL...
THE FOOLS! THEY CAN'T KEEP ME HERE... CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL PAY FOR THIS!
AH... HERE COMES THE GUARD WITH FOOD.... HMM, THAT FURNISHES FOOD FOR THOUGHT! THE CREEPER WILL STRIKE!
UGHHHHHH
AH!
AS THE CHOKENED GUARD SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR, A CLAMMY HAND REACHES OUT AND....
ONCE PAST THAT DOOR... THEN FREEDOM AGAIN!
BUT YOU'LL HEAR OF ME AGAIN, CAPTAIN AMERICA! ...YOU AND YOUR ENTIRE STUPID NATION!
...AND SO WE AGAIN RETURN TO THE PRESENT, TO THIS JUMBLED WORLD OF OURS....
1942 JANUARY
FROM COAST TO COAST, EXCITEMENT AND CONFUSION ARE RUNNING RAMPANT!
THAT RING MUST BE RECOVERED!
WHY ISN'T CAPTAIN AMERICA HERE?
NO NEWS YET! BUT STAY TUNED!
J. EDGAR, PUT EVERY AVAILABLE MAN ON THE JOB!
NOT... NOT... THE CREEPER!
EXTRA! DAILY GLOBE EXTRA! ALSLAVIAN TREATY RING STOLEN! MYSTERY!
EXTRA!
EXTRA!
HELLO! GET ME THE F.B.I.

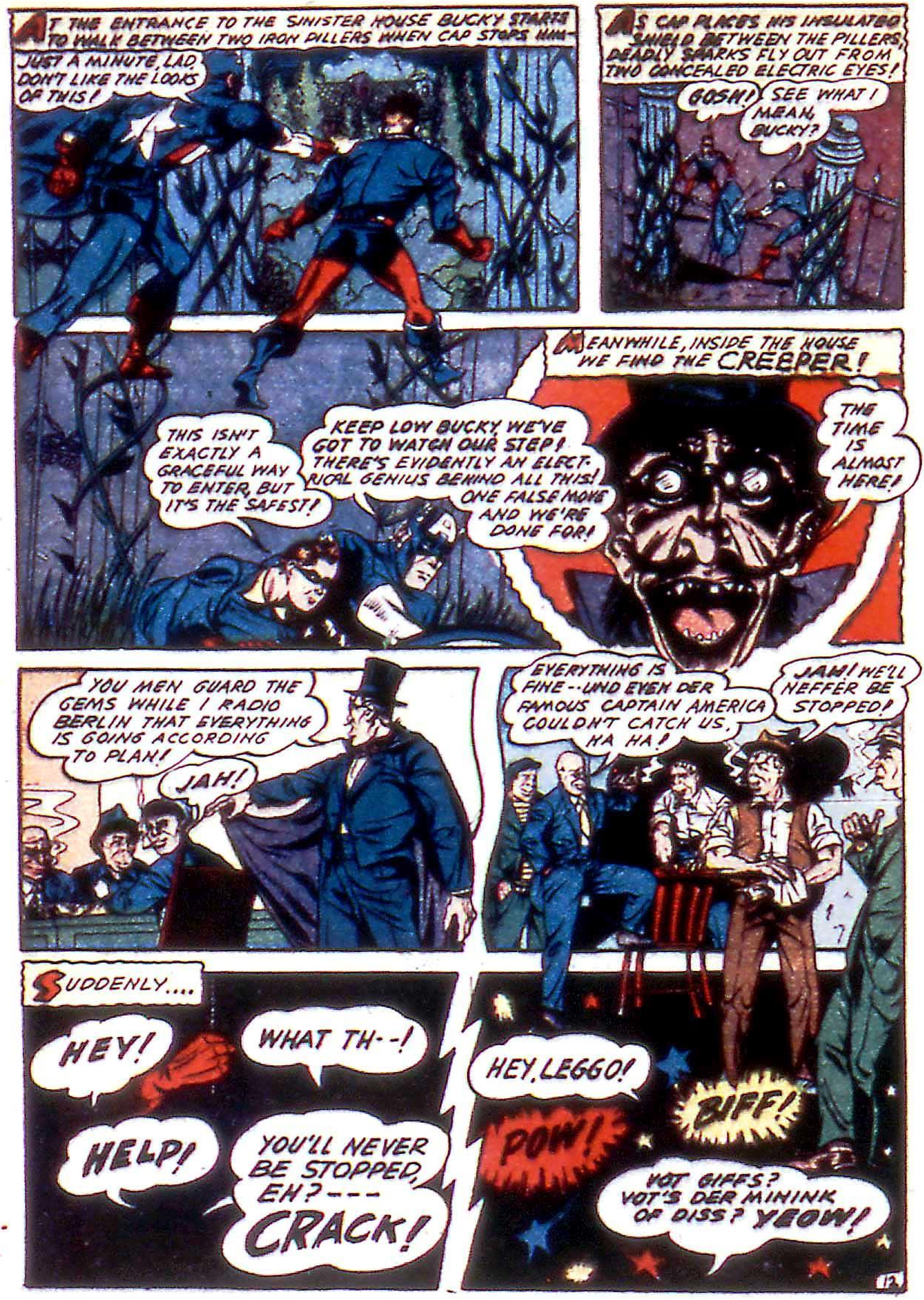

LATER, IN LISSOM'S OFFICE...
I TELL YOU THAT RING MUST BE RECOVERED... ITS IMPORTANCE CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASIZED! YOU CAN QUOTE ME AS SAYING THAT EVERY ENERGY WILL BE DEVOTED TO CATCHING THE CREEPER!
SUDDENLY...
CRASH!
WHAT'S THAT?
HOLY SMOKE... A ROCK... WITH A NOTE ON IT!
OUT OF THE WAY, LET ME READ THIS!
BOY, LISSOM SURE IS NERVOUS!
A ROCK WITH A NOTE ON IT... GOLLY... THINGS LIKE THIS ONLY HAPPEN IN MOVIES! WHAT DOES IT SAY?
GREETINGS HERR LISSOM - THIS IS JUST TO INFORM YOU THAT THE THREE RUBIES ARE HIDDEN IN THREE DIFFERENT PLACES! YOU'LL NEVER FIND ALL OF THEM IN TIME FOR THE TREATY SIGNING! HEIL HITLER! THE CREEPER!
THE NEXT NIGHT...
BUT, STEVE, WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! THE FATE OF THE WHOLE WORLD IS AT STAKE!
BUCKY, LAD, JUST PUTTING ON OUR COSTUMES WON'T HELP UNLESS WE CAN FIND A LEAD! WE'LL HAVE TO BE PATIENT... SOMETHING WILL BREAK; IT ALWAYS DOES!
STEVE, LOOK, A ROBBERY!
IN SPLIT SECONDS, THE UNIFORMED FRIENDS BECOME COSTUMED-AVENGERS!
NO MORE TALK NOW, KID, LET'S GO!
ROBBING A U.S.O. HEADQUARTERS IS THE LOWEST TRICK POSSIBLE!
CANTEEN
YAHOO!
...AND THE MIGHTY CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY LEAP INTO ACTION!

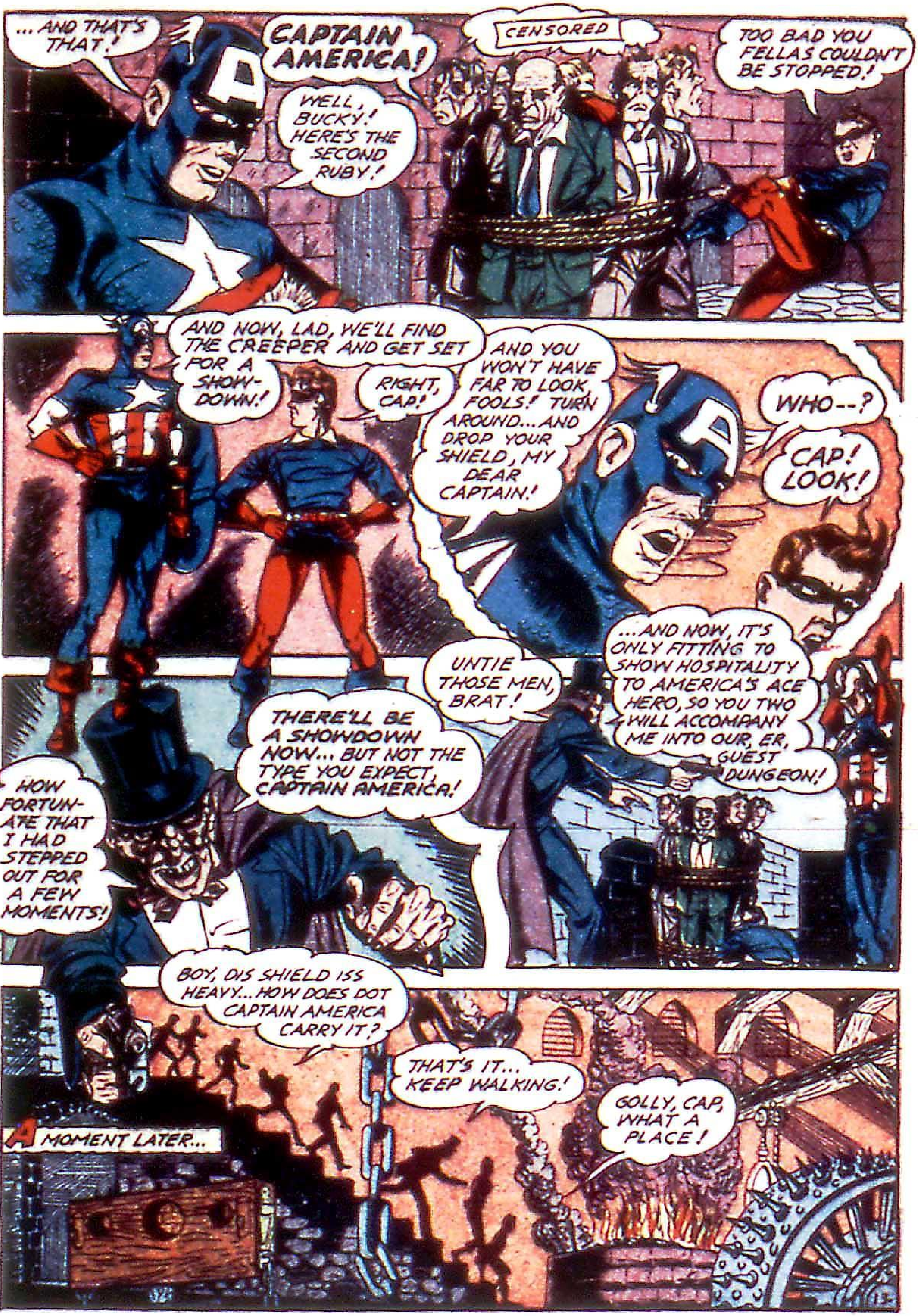

BAM
POW
HEARTLESS THIEVES!
BIFF!
ROB AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF THEIR RECREATION, EH?
CRACK!
U.S.O.
CAP, LOOK, ONE'S GETTING AWAY!
I MUST GET AVAY UND TELL DER CREEPER VOT HAPPENED!
A MOMENT LATER...
JUST A MOMENT, LAD!

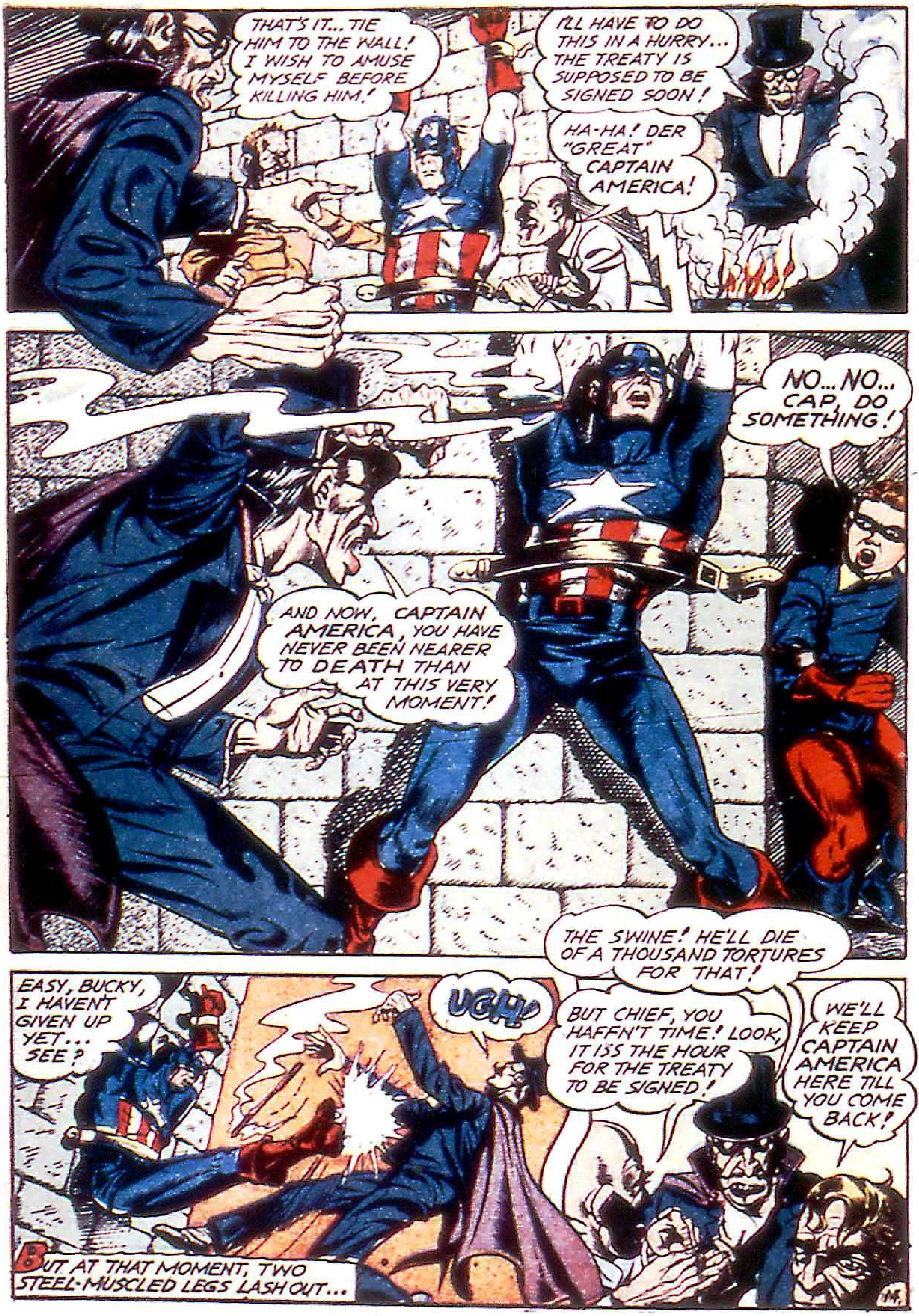

DID YOU HEAR WHAT HE MUMBLED AS HE SLINKED AWAY? WE'LL LET HIM LEAD US TO THE CREEPER-- THIS IS THE CHANCE WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
LOOK! HE'S SLIPPING INTO THAT OLD, ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNEL! THAT MUST BE ONE OF THE CREEPER'S HIDE-OUTS!
BACK, BUCKY! BACK, LAD!
GOSH, HE ALMOST SAW US THAT TIME, CAP!
UND NOW TO TELL DER MEN!
TELL DER CREEPER DOT CAPTAIN AMERICA BROKE UP OUR U.S.O. ROBBING JOB!
LOOK, IT'S ERIC!
DER CREEPER ISN'T HERE!
NO, NO, LAD, NOT SO FAST!
LET'S GO, CAP! HEY, WHAT--?
LET'S DO IT THIS WAY!
ZING
BULL'S EYE!
ULP!

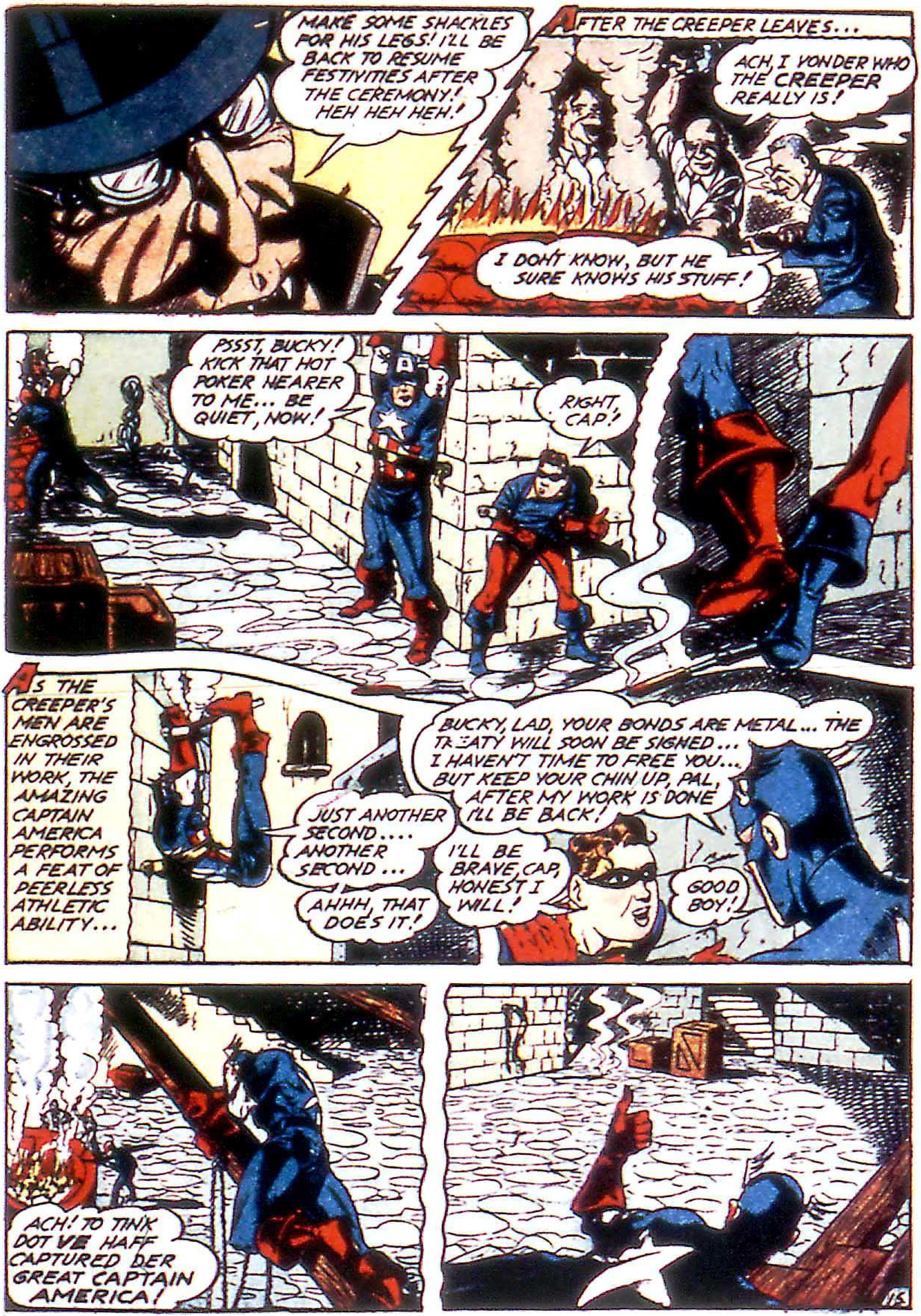

LET'S DO IT THIS WAY, BUCKY!
HEY!
ULP!
POW!
BOY, CAP, WE CLEANED 'EM CLEAN!
OH YEAH? VE GET YOU NOW! SURROUND DEM, MEN!
JAH, DEY CAN'T GET ALL OFF US!
CIRCLE DEM!
EASY NOW, LAD!
GET DEM!
BUCKY PUTS HIS FEET INTO CAP'S SHIELD GRIPS AND....
ALL SET, BUCKY?
ALL SET CAP!
AROUND WE GO!
ALLEY OOOP!
CRAC
POW!
SMACK
AND NOW, COME HERE YOU! I WANT SOME INFORMATION! YOU'RE GONNA TALK!
HEFFER!
NEVER, EH?
ULP! UGH! GASP!
WE'LL SEE HOW BRAVE YOU ARE WITH A LITTLE PRESSURE APPLIED!--THERE!
NO, NO,---NO MORE... I'LL—I'LL-GULP-I'LL TALK!
AHA!

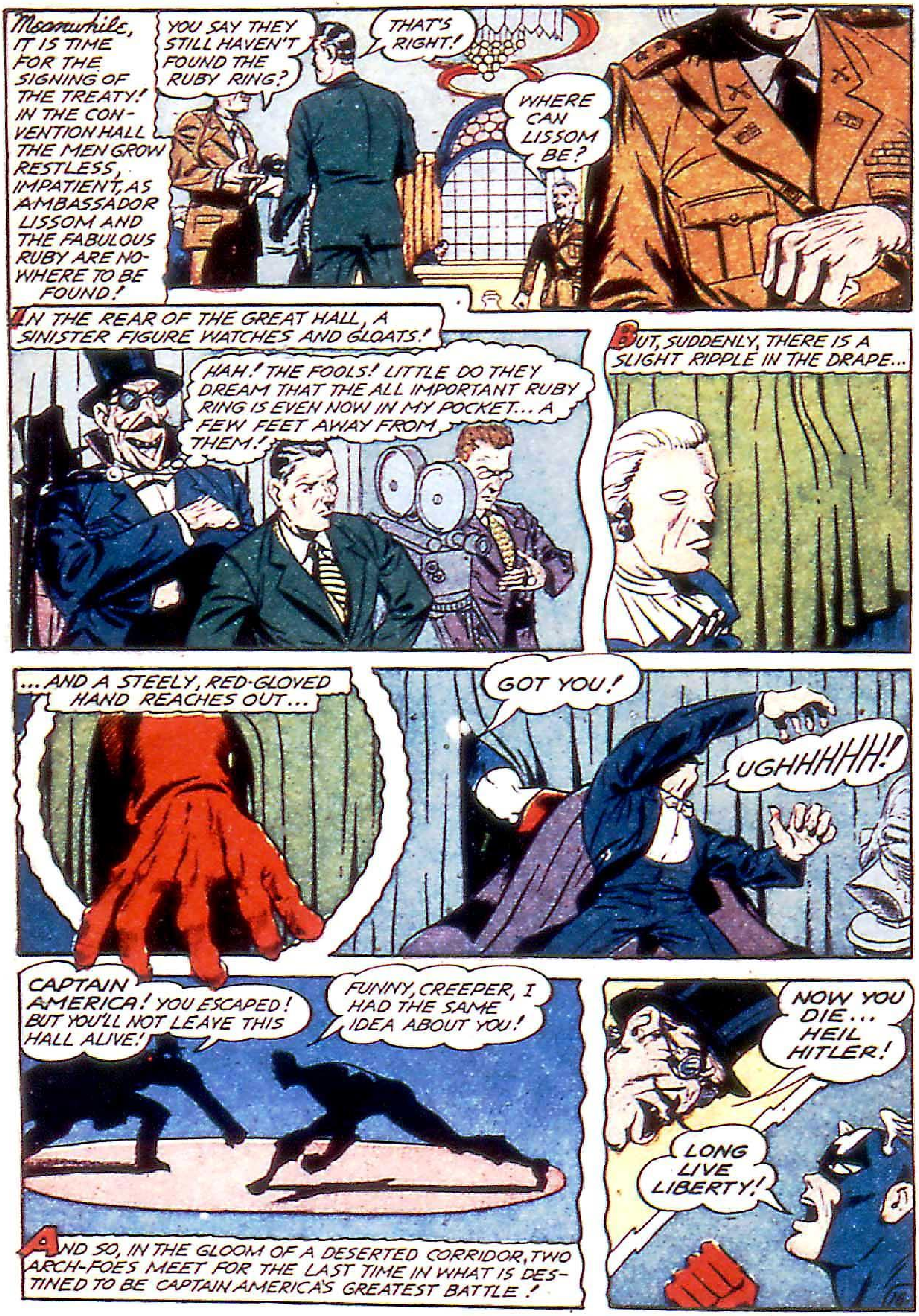

TH...TH..THE R..R..RUBY IS IN TH..TH..THERE!
SO!
WELL, HERE'S THE FIRST RUBY, NOW. TWO MORE TO GO
DID YOU HEAR ME? TWO MORE TO GO!
NO! NO! DON'T HIT ME AGAIN. I..I'LL TELL YOU WHERE THE SECOND ONE IS!
IT..IT'S AT THE OLD ELBY HAUNTED HOUSE, AT THE EDGE OF TOWN
HEAR THAT BUCKY? LET'S GO
BOY, OH, BOY! AND THEY TALK ABOUT HONOR AMONG THIEVES...THAT GUY WAS SURE READY TO TALK WHEN YOU STARTED TO GET TOUGH, CAP!
WE'LL, WE'LL LEAVE HIM WITH HIS PALS NOW, KID!
LEAVING THE TUNNEL, THE TWO CRIME-FIGHTING FRIENDS FIND THAT A STORM HAS RISEN WHILE THEY WERE BELOW
BOY, LOOK AT THIS STORM!
BUT THRU THE RAIN AND THUNDER, WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, OUR HEROES FINALLY REACH THEIR DESTINATION!
THERE IT IS, KID!
GEE, GOSH! WHAT A NIGHT TO VISIT A HAUNTED HOUSE!
YAHOO!
NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT, BUCKY! LET'S GO!

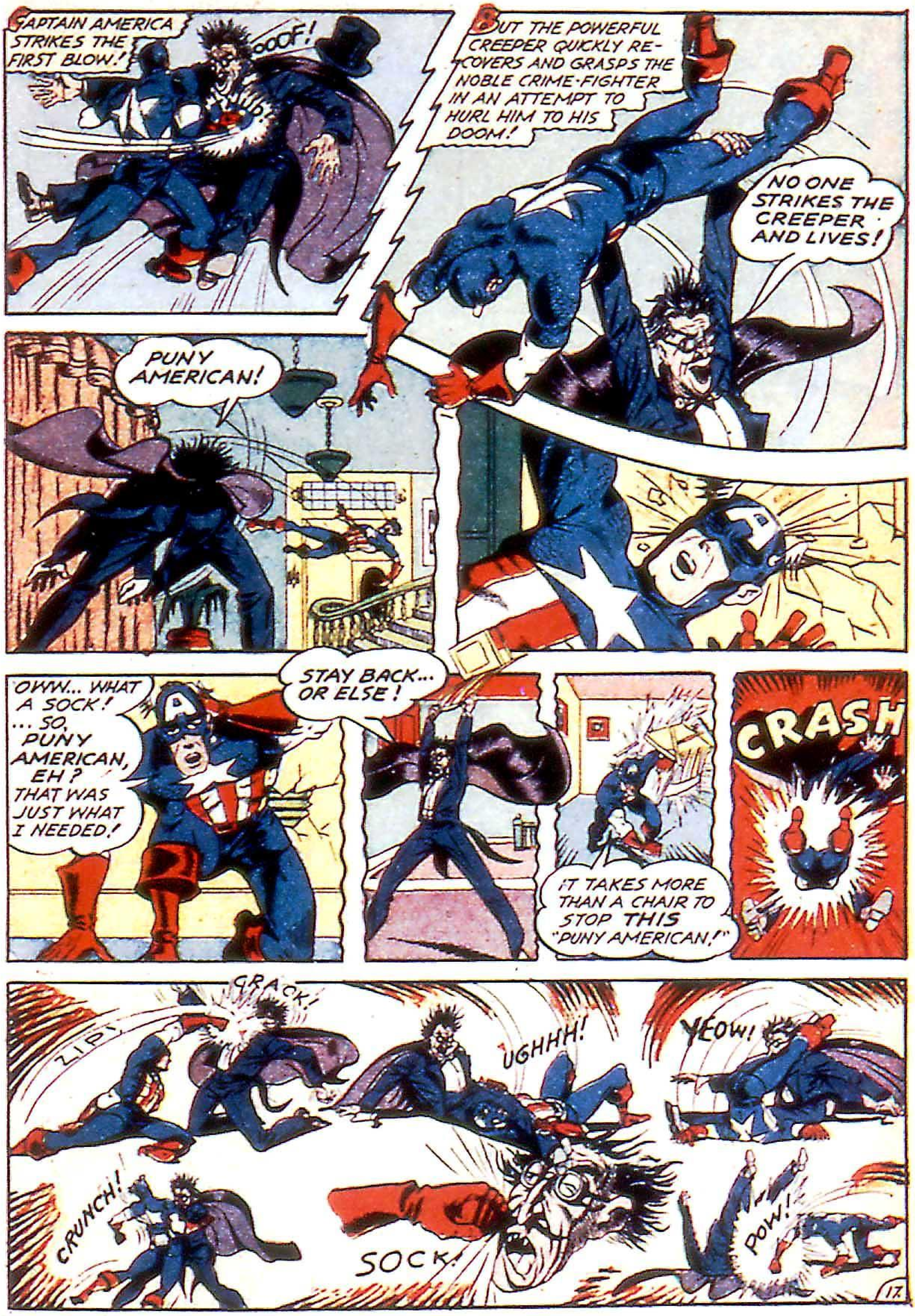

AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SINISTER HOUSE BUCKY STARTS TO WALK BETWEEN TWO IRON PILLERS WHEN CAP STOPS HIM-
JUST A MINUTE, LAD. DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS!
AS CAP PLACES HIS INSULATED SHIELD BETWEEN THE PILLERS, DEADLY SPARKS FLY OUT FROM TWO CONCEALED ELECTRIC EYES!
GOSH!
SEE WHAT I MEAN, BUCKY?
THIS ISN'T EXACTLY A GRACEFUL WAY TO ENTER, BUT IT'S THE SAFEST!
KEEP LOW BUCKY, WE'VE GOT TO WATCH OUR STEP! THERE'S EVIDENTLY AN ELECTRICAL GENIUS BEHIND ALL THIS! ONE FALSE MOVE AND WE'RE DONE FOR!
MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE HOUSE WE FIND THE CREEPER!
THE TIME IS ALMOST HERE!
YOU MEN GUARD THE GEMS WHILE I RADIO BERLIN THAT EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!
JAH!
EVERYTHING IS FINE--UND EVEN DER FAMOUS CAPTAIN AMERICA COULDN'T CATCH US, HA HA!
JAH! WE'LL NEFFER BE STOPPED!
SUDDENLY....
HEY!
WHAT TH--!
HELP!
YOU'LL NEVER BE STOPPED, EH?---
CRACK!
HEY, LEGGO!
BIFF!
POW!
VOT GIFFS? VOT'S DER MININK OF DISS? YEOW!

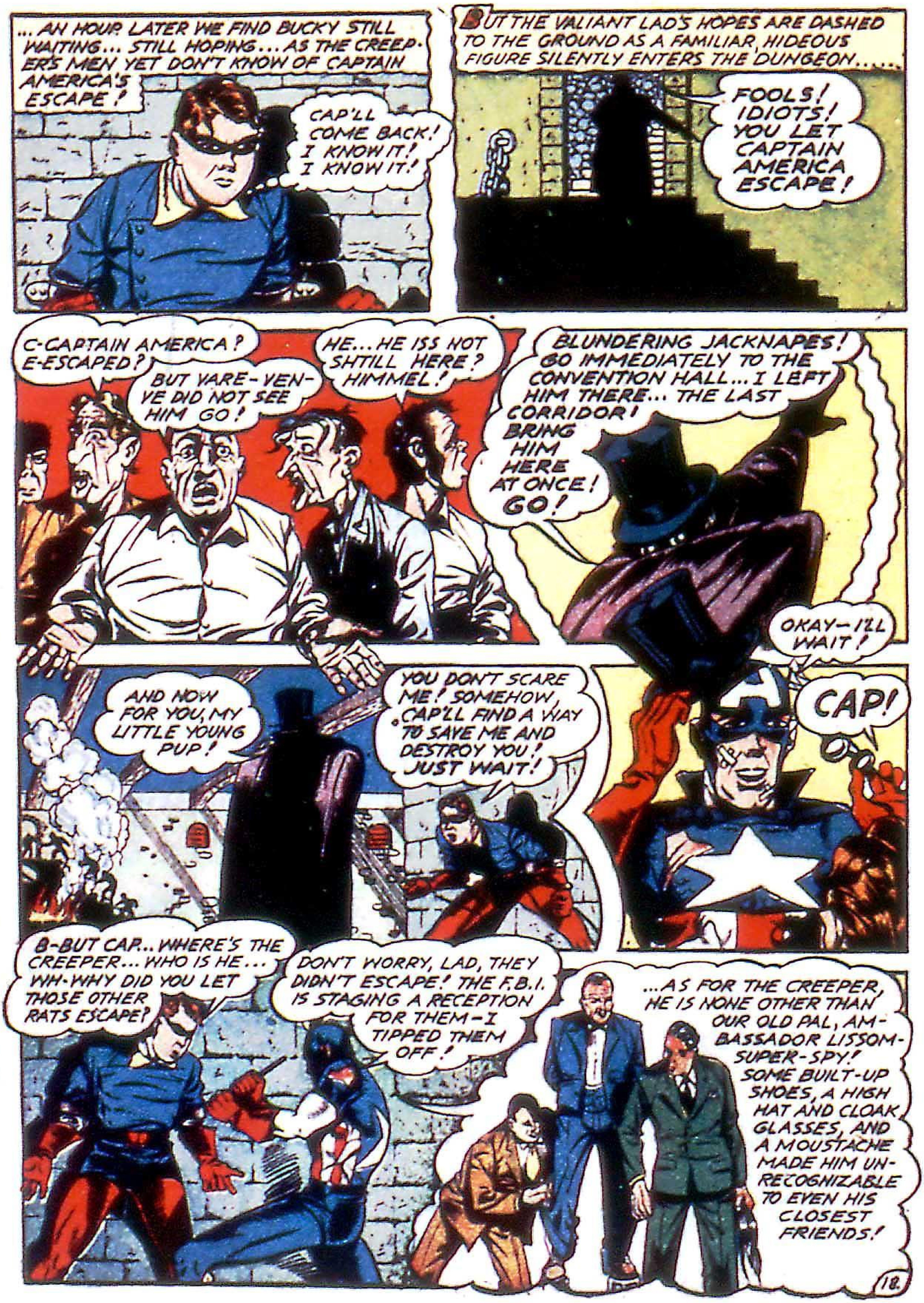

...AND THAT'S THAT!
CAPTAIN AMERICA!
WELL, BUCKY! HERE'S THE SECOND RUBY!
CENSORED
TOO BAD YOU FELLAS COULDN'T BE STOPPED!
AND NOW, LAD, WE'LL FIND THE CREEPER AND GET SET FOR A SHOWDOWN!
RIGHT, CAP!
AND YOU WON'T HAVE FAR TO LOOK, FOOLS! TURN AROUND... AND DROP YOUR SHIELD, MY DEAR CAPTAIN!
WHO--?
CAP! LOOK!
HOW FORTUNATE THAT I HAD STEPPED OUT FOR A FEW MOMENTS!
THERE'LL BE A SHOWDOWN NOW... BUT NOT THE TYPE YOU EXPECT, CAPTAIN AMERICA!
UNTIE THOSE MEN, BRAT!
...AND NOW, IT'S ONLY FITTING TO SHOW HOSPITALITY TO AMERICA'S ACE HERO, SO YOU TWO WILL ACCOMPANY ME INTO OUR, ER, GUEST DUNGEON!
A MOMENT LATER...
BOY, DIS SHIELD ISS HEAVY... HOW DOES DOT CAPTAIN AMERICA CARRY IT?
THAT'S IT... KEEP WALKING!
GOLLY, CAP, WHAT A PLACE!

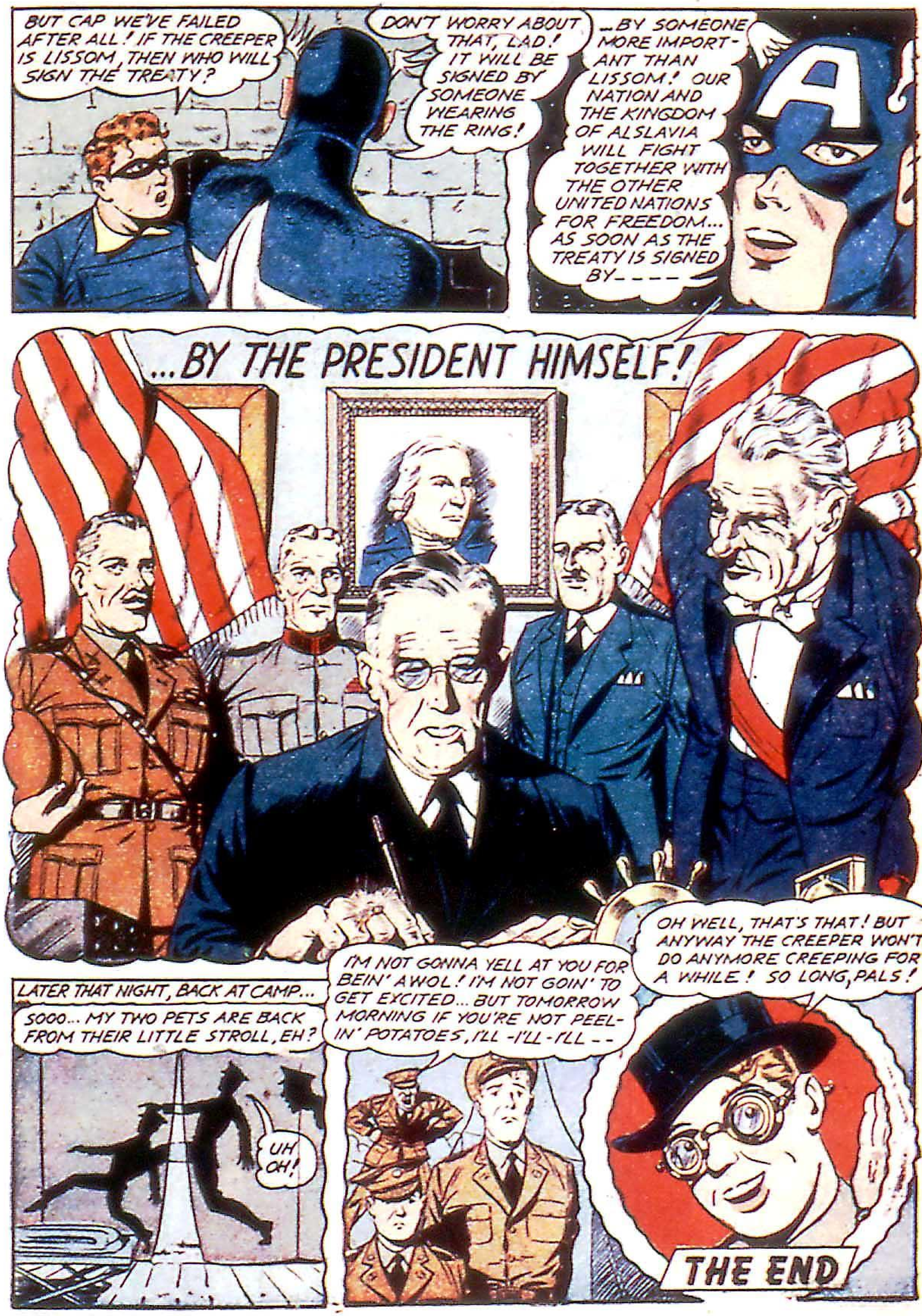

THAT'S IT... TIE HIM TO THE WALL! I WISH TO AMUSE MYSELF BEFORE KILLING HIM!
I'LL HAVE TO DO THIS IN A HURRY... THE TREATY IS SUPPOSED TO BE SIGNED SOON!
HA-HA! DER "GREAT" CAPTAIN AMERICA!
NO... NO... CAP, DO SOMETHING!
AND NOW, CAPTAIN AMERICA, YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN NEARER TO DEATH THAN AT THIS VERY MOMENT!
THE SWINE! HE'LL DIE OF A THOUSAND TORTURES FOR THAT!
EASY, BUCKY, I HAVENT GIVEN UP YET... SEE?
UGH!
BUT CHIEF, YOU HAFFN'T TIME! LOOK, IT ISS THE HOUR FOR THE TREATY TO BE SIGNED!
WE'LL KEEP CAPTAIN AMERICA HERE TILL YOU COME BACK!
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, TWO STEEL-MUSCLED LEGS LASH OUT...


MAKE SOME SHACKLES FOR HIS LEGS! I'LL BE BACK TO RESUME FESTIVITIES AFTER THE CEREMONY! HEH HEH HEH!
AFTER THE CREEPER LEAVES...
ACH, I VONDER WHO THE CREEPER REALLY IS!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT HE SURE KNOWS HIS STUFF!
PSSST, BUCKY! KICK THAT HOT POKER NEARER TO ME... BE QUIET, NOW!
RIGHT, CAP!
AS THE CREEPER'S MEN ARE ENGROSSED IN THEIR WORK, THE AMAZING CAPTAIN AMERICA PERFORMS A FEAT OF PEERLESS ATHLETIC ABILITY...
JUST ANOTHER SECOND.... ANOTHER SECOND...
AHHH, THAT DOES IT!
BUCKY, LAD, YOUR BONDS ARE METAL... THE TREATY WILL SOON BE SIGNED... I HAVEN'T TIME TO FREE YOU... BUT KEEP YOUR CHIN UP, PAL, AFTER MY WORK IS DONE I'LL BE BACK!
I'LL BE BRAVE, CAP, HONEST I WILL!
GOOD BOY!
ACH! TO TINK DOT VE HAFF CAPTURED DER GREAT CAPTAIN AMERICA!

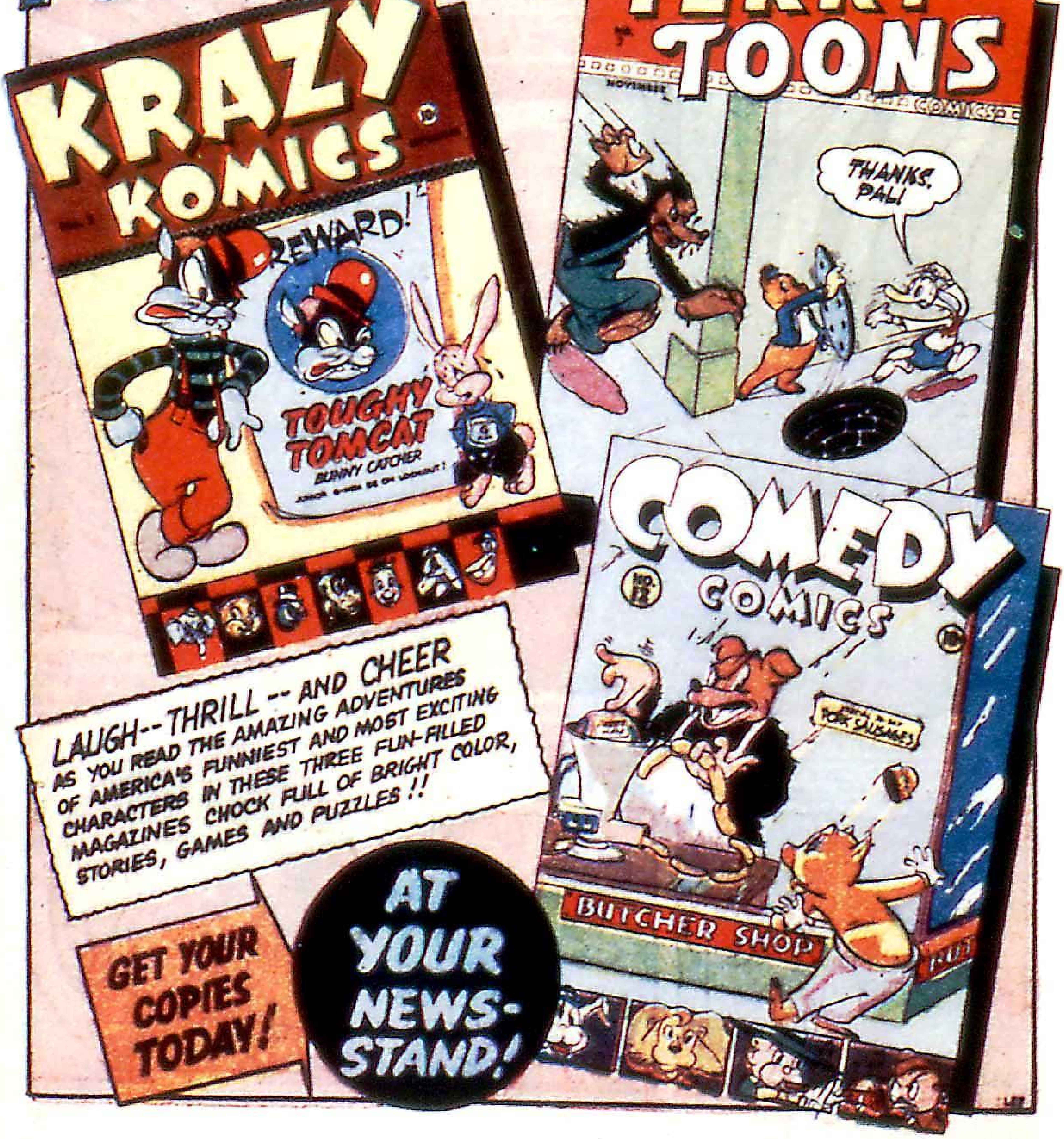

Meanwhile, IT IS TIME FOR THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY! IN THE CONVENTION HALL THE MEN GROW RESTLESS, IMPATIENT, AS AMBASSADOR LISSOM AND THE FABULOUS RUBY ARE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!
YOU SAY THEY STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE RUBY RING?
THAT'S RIGHT!
WHERE CAN LISSOM BE?
IN THE REAR OF THE GREAT HALL, A SINISTER FIGURE WATCHES AND GLOATS!
HAH! THE FOOLS! LITTLE DO THEY DREAM THAT THE ALL IMPORTANT RUBY RING IS EVEN NOW IN MY POCKET... A FEW FEET AWAY FROM THEM!
BUT, SUDDENLY, THERE IS A SLIGHT RIPPLE IN THE DRAPE...
...AND A STEELY, RED-GLOVED HAND REACHES OUT...
GOT YOU!
UGHHHHH!
CAPTAIN AMERICA! YOU ESCAPED! BUT YOU'LL NOT LEAVE THIS HALL ALIVE!
FUNNY, CREEPER, I HAD THE SAME IDEA ABOUT YOU!
AND SO, IN THE GLOOM OF A DESERTED CORRIDOR, TWO ARCH-FOES MEET FOR THE LAST TIME IN WHAT IS DESTINED TO BE CAPTAIN AMERICA'S GREATEST BATTLE!
NOW YOU DIE... HEIL HITLER!
LONG LIVE LIBERTY!


CAPTAIN AMERICA STRIKES THE FIRST BLOW!
OOOF!
BUT THE POWERFUL CREEPER QUICKLY RECOVERS AND GRASPS THE NOBLE CRIME-FIGHTER IN AN ATTEMPT TO HURL HIM TO HIS DOOM!
NO ONE STRIKES THE CREEPER AND LIVES!
PUNY AMERICAN!
OWW... WHAT A SOCK! ... SO, PUNY AMERICAN, EH? THAT WAS JUST WHAT I NEEDED!
STAY BACK... OR ELSE!
IT TAKES MORE THAN A CHAIR TO STOP THIS "PUNY AMERICAN!"
CRASH
ZIP!
CRACK!
UGHHH!
YEOW!
CRUNCH!
SOCK
POW!


...AN HOUR LATER WE FIND BUCKY STILL WAITING... STILL HOPING... AS THE CREEPER'S MEN YET DON'T KNOW OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S ESCAPE!
CAP'LL COME BACK! I KNOW IT! I KNOW IT!
BUT THE VALIANT LAD'S HOPES ARE DASHED TO THE GROUND AS A FAMILIAR, HIDEOUS FIGURE SILENTLY ENTERS THE DUNGEON......
FOOLS! IDIOTS! YOU LET CAPTAIN AMERICA ESCAPE!
C-CAPTAIN AMERICA? E-ESCAPED?
BUT VARE-VEN-VE DID NOT SEE HIM GO!
HE... HE ISS NOT SHTILL HERE? HIMMEL!
BLUNDERING JACKNAPES! GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE CONVENTION HALL... I LEFT HIM THERE... THE LAST CORRIDOR! BRING HIM HERE AT ONCE! GO!
AND NOW FOR YOU, MY LITTLE YOUNG PUP!
YOU DON'T SCARE ME! SOMEHOW, CAP'LL FIND A WAY TO SAVE ME AND DESTROY YOU! JUST WAIT!
OKAY—I'LL WAIT!
CAP!
B-BUT CAP... WHERE'S THE CREEPER... WHO IS HE... WH-WHY DID YOU LET THOSE OTHER RATS ESCAPE?
DON'T WORRY, LAD, THEY DIDN'T ESCAPE! THE F.B.I. IS STAGING A RECEPTION FOR THEM—I TIPPED THEM OFF!
...AS FOR THE CREEPER, HE IS NONE OTHER THAN OUR OLD PAL, AMBASSADOR LISSOM-SUPER-SPY! SOME BUILT-UP SHOES, A HIGH HAT AND CLOAK, GLASSES, AND A MOUSTACHE MADE HIM UNRECOGNIZABLE TO EVEN HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS!


BUT CAP WE'VE FAILED AFTER ALL! IF THE CREEPER IS LISSOM, THEN WHO WILL SIGN THE TREATY?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, LAD! IT WILL BE SIGNED BY SOMEONE WEARING THE RING!
...BY SOMEONE MORE IMPORTANT THAN LISSOM! OUR NATION AND THE KINGDOM OF ALSLAVIA WILL FIGHT TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER UNITED NATIONS FOR FREEDOM... AS SOON AS THE TREATY IS SIGNED BY----
...BY THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF!
LATER THAT NIGHT, BACK AT CAMP...
SOOO... MY TWO PETS ARE BACK FROM THEIR LITTLE STROLL, EH?
UH OH!
I'M NOT GONNA YELL AT YOU FOR BEIN' AWOL! I'M NOT GOIN' TO GET EXCITED... BUT TOMORROW MORNING IF YOU'RE NOT PEELIN' POTATOES, I'LL -I'LL -I'LL --
OH WELL, THAT'S THAT! BUT ANYWAY THE CREEPER WON'T DO ANYMORE CREEPING FOR A WHILE! SO LONG, PALS!
THE END

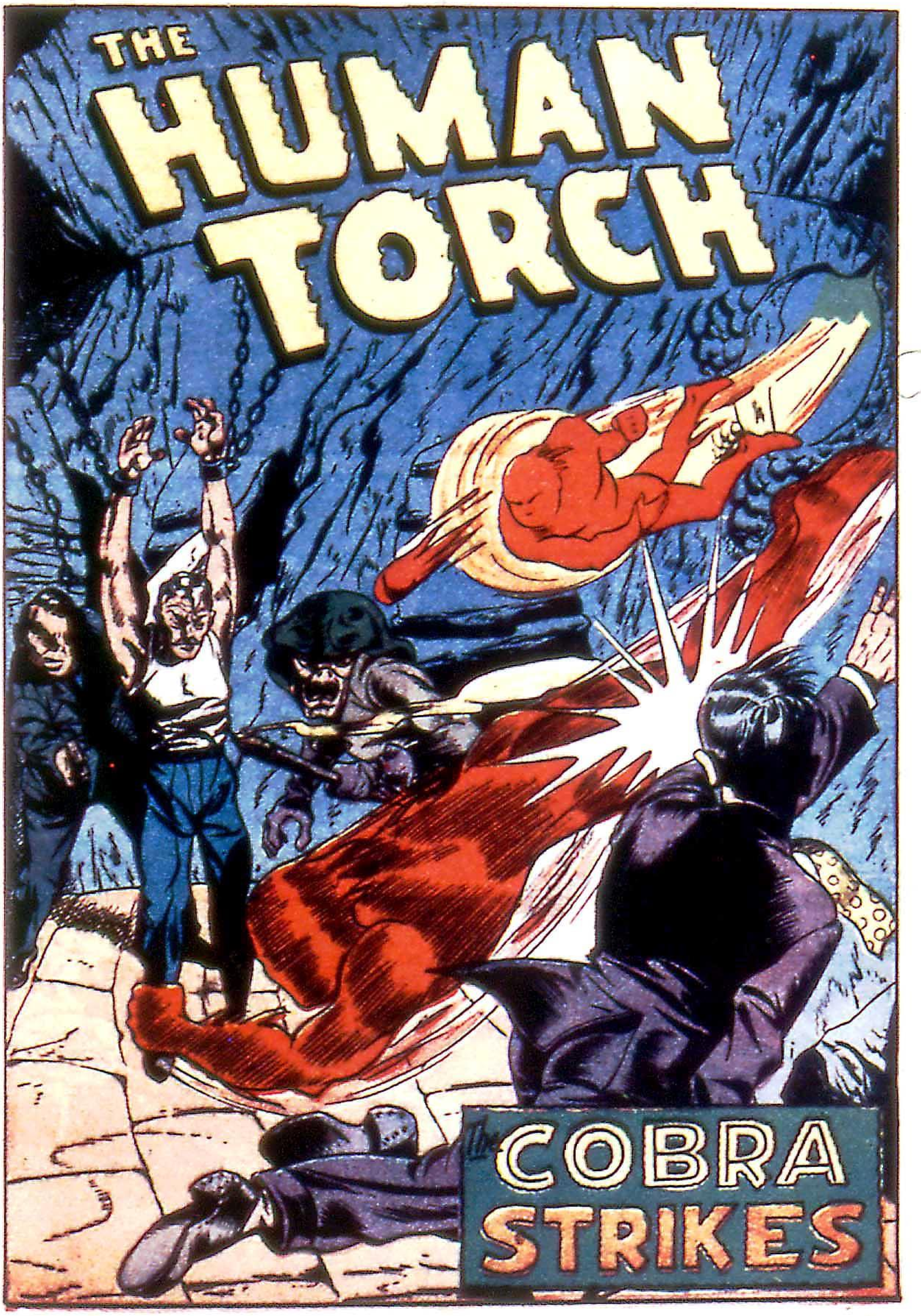
America's FUNNIEST THREE!

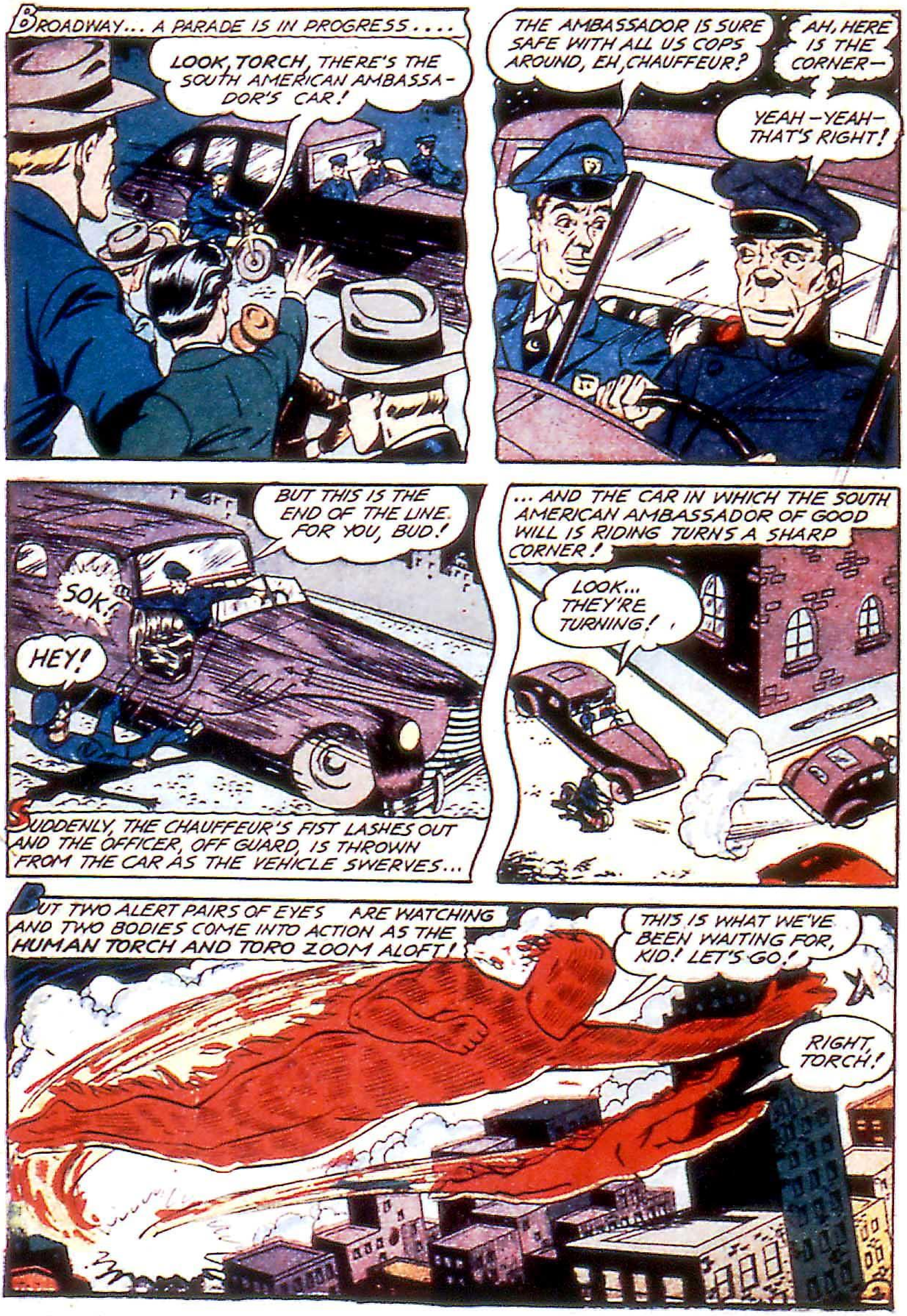

TERRY-TOONS COMICS
10¢
No. 2
NOVEMBER
THANKS, PAL!
KRAZY KOMICS
10¢
REWARD!
TOUGHY TOMCAT
BUNNY CATCHER
COMEDY COMICS
No. 12
10¢
PORK SAUSAGES
BUTCHER SHOP

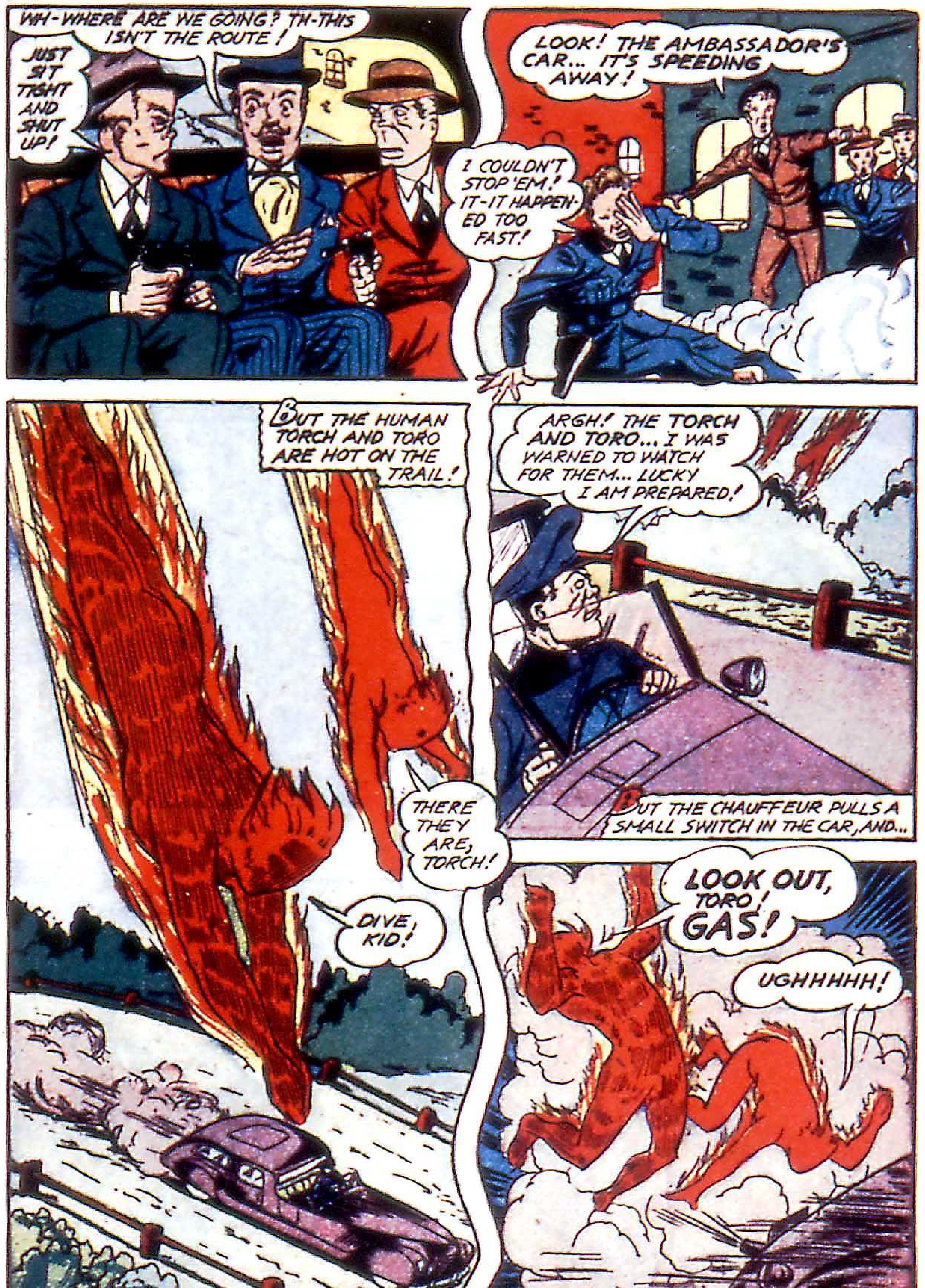
LAUGH--THRILL -- AND CHEER AS YOU READ THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF AMERICA'S FUNNIEST AND MOST EXCITING CHARACTERS IN THESE THREE FUN-FILLED MAGAZINES CHOCK FULL OF BRIGHT COLOR, STORIES, GAMES AND PUZZLES !!

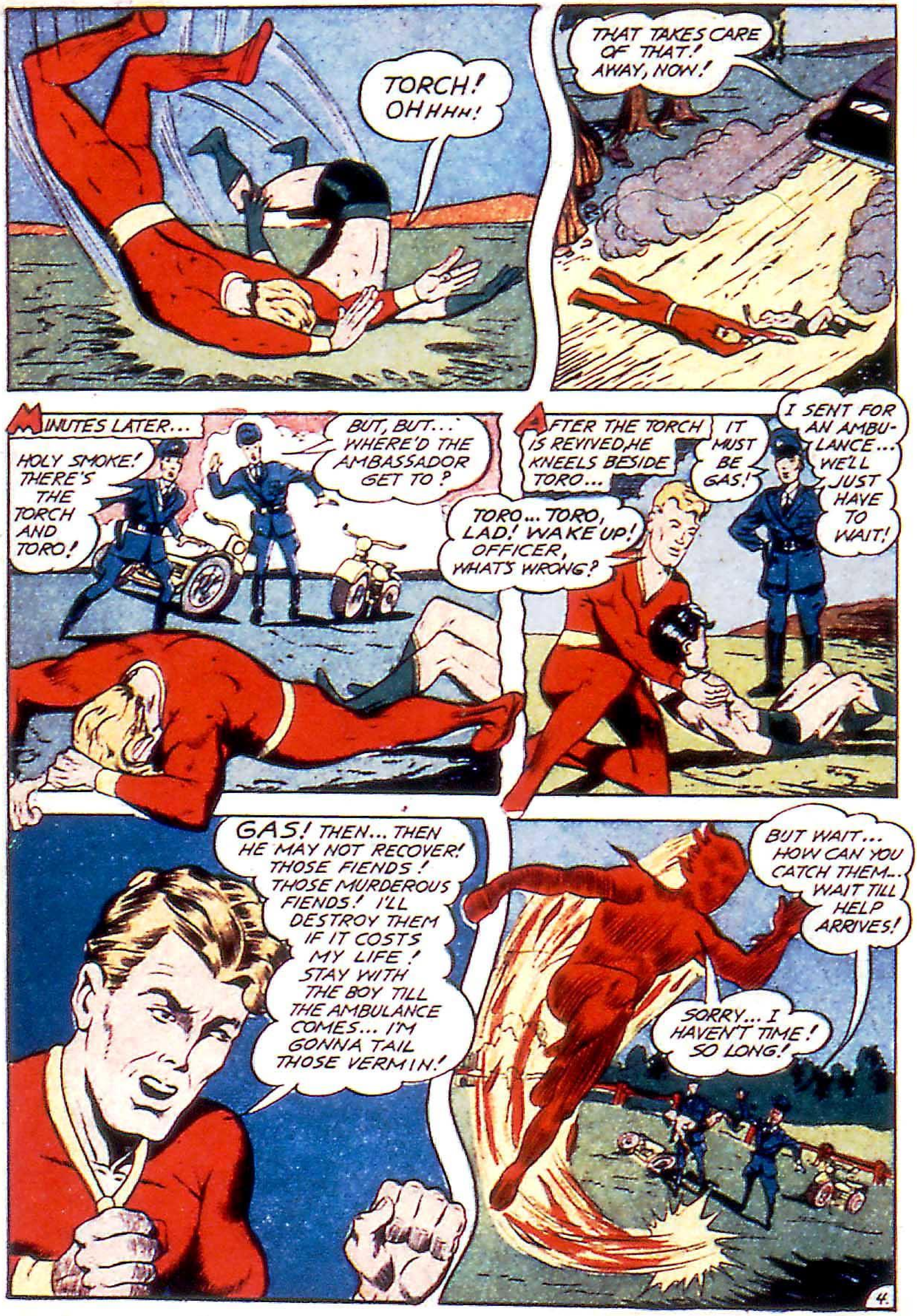
GET YOUR COPIES TODAY!

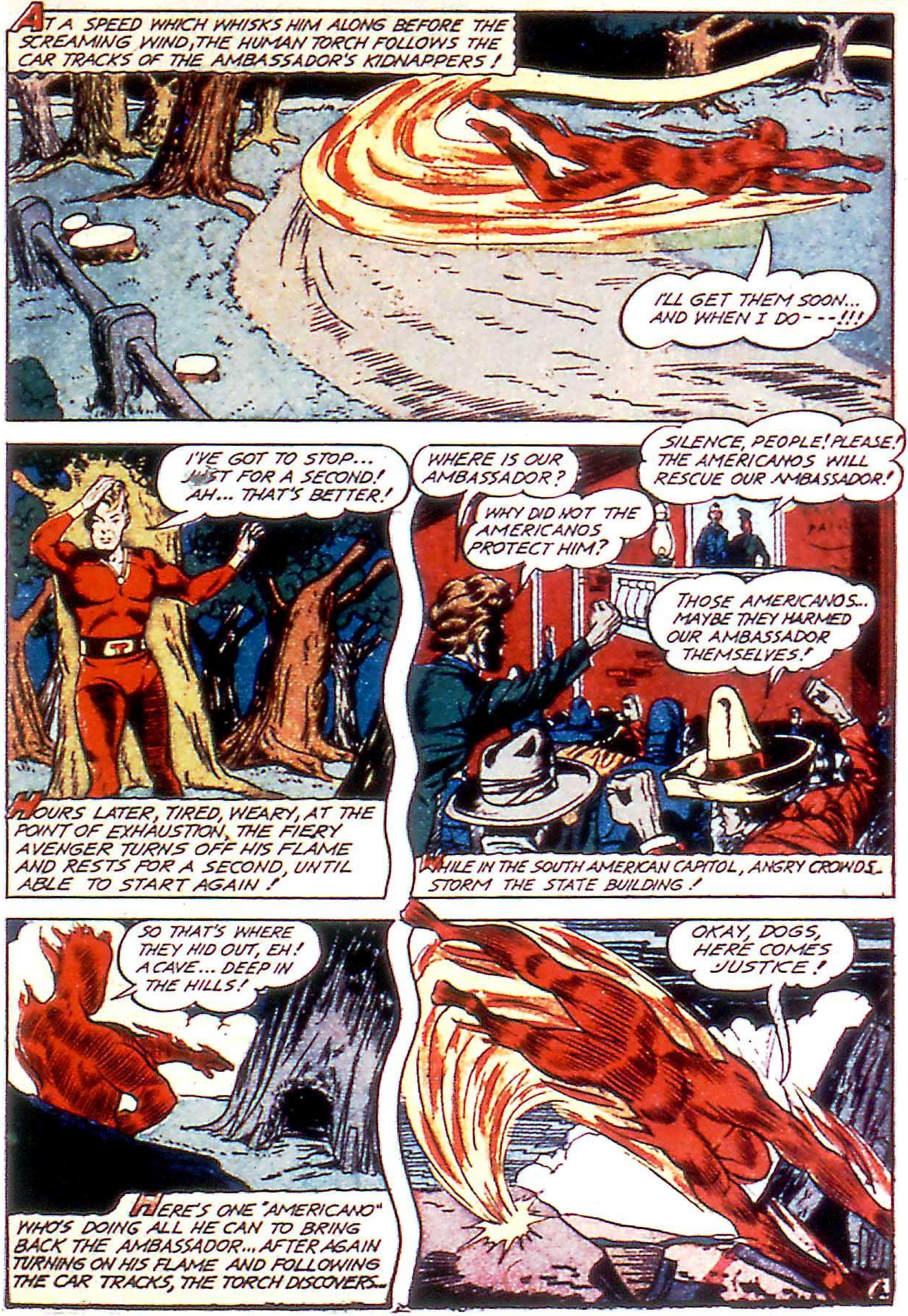
AT YOUR NEWS-STAND!

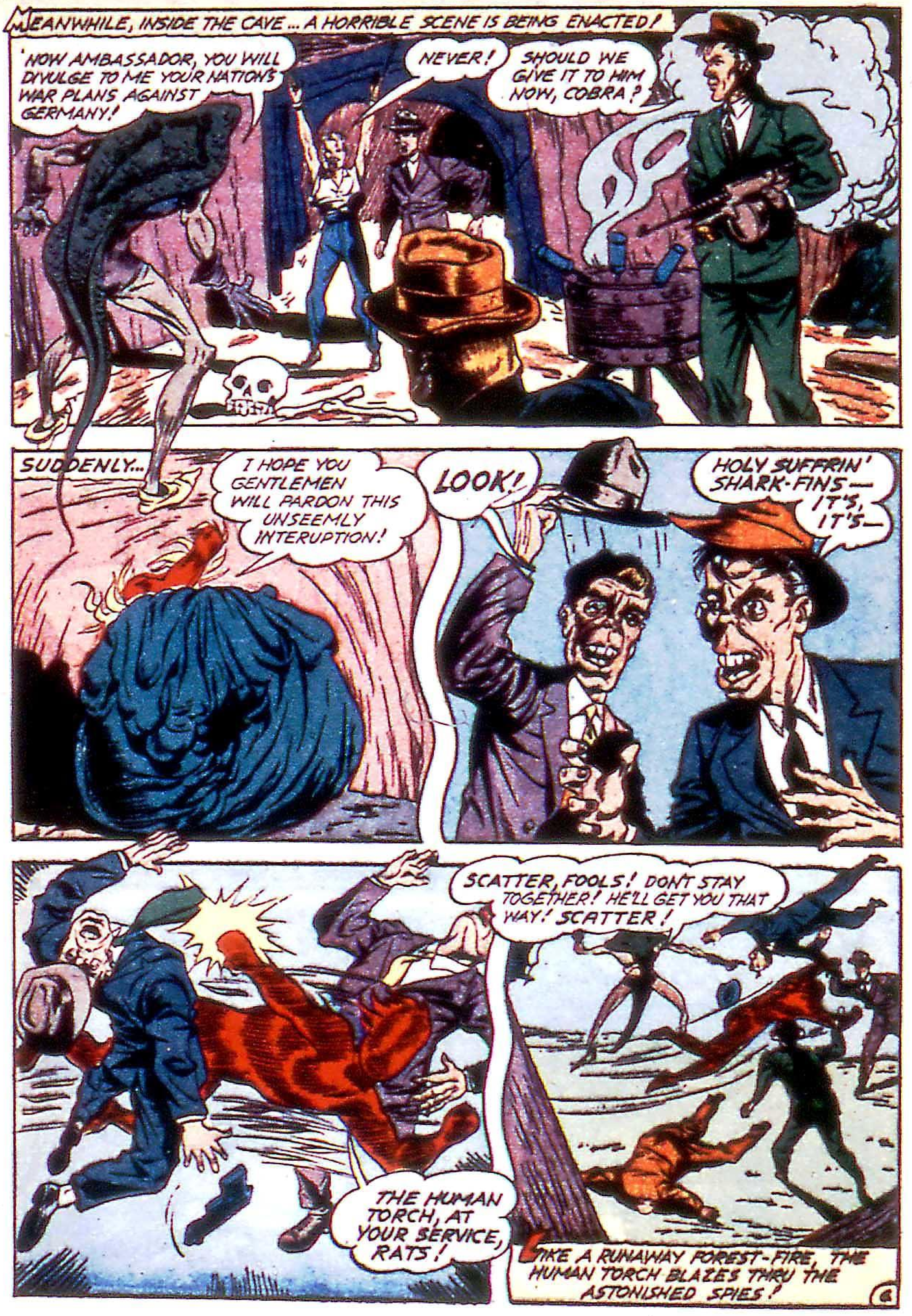

THE HUMAN TORCH
The COBRA STRIKES

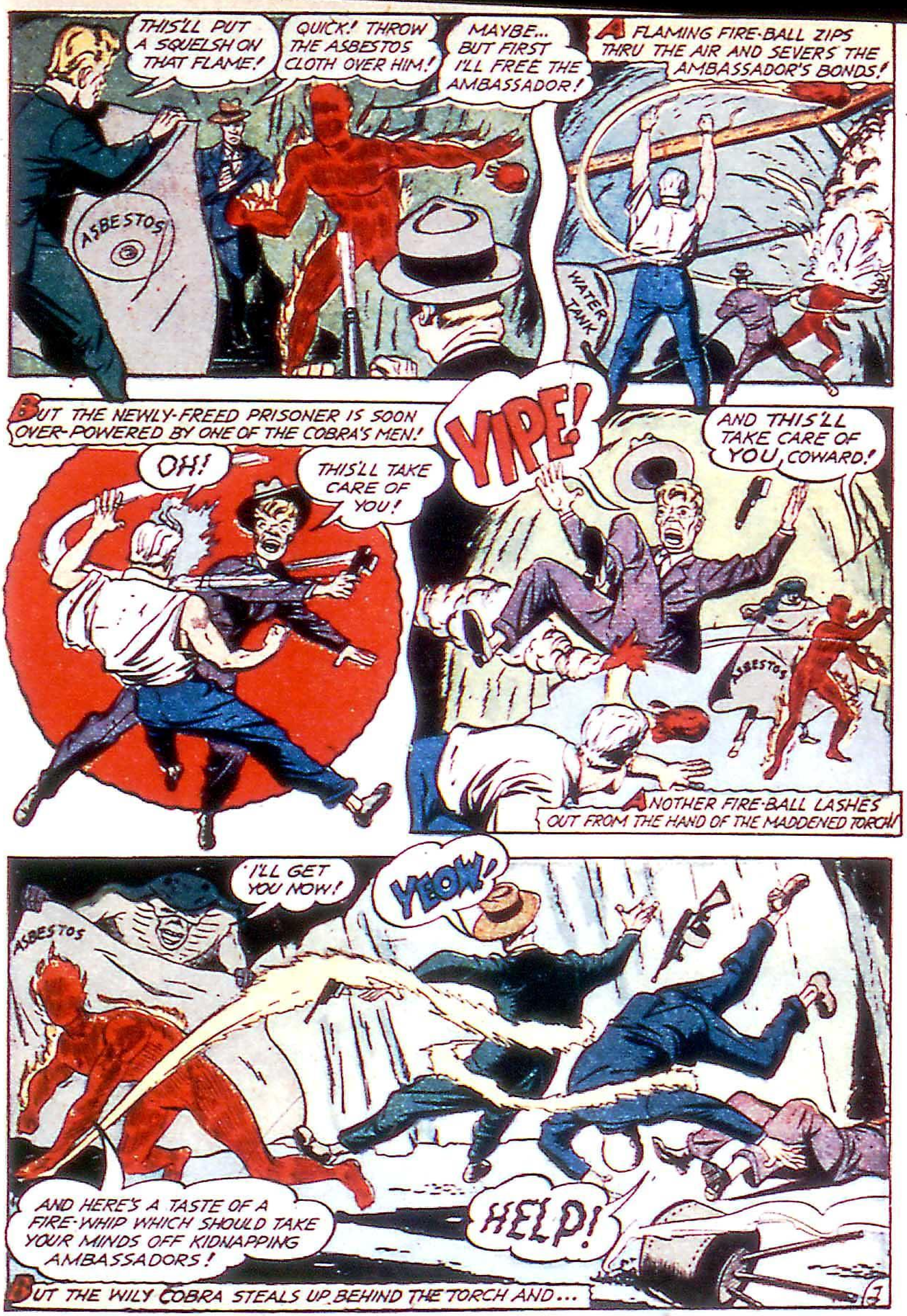

BROADWAY... A PARADE IS IN PROGRESS....
LOOK, TORCH, THERE'S THE SOUTH AMERICAN AMBASSADOR'S CAR!
THE AMBASSADOR IS SURE SAFE WITH ALL US COPS AROUND, EH, CHAUFFEUR?
AH, HERE IS THE CORNER—
YEAH—YEAH—THAT'S RIGHT!
BUT THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE FOR YOU, BUD!
SOK!
HEY!
SUDDENLY, THE CHAUFFEUR'S FIST LASHES OUT AND THE OFFICER, OFF GUARD, IS THROWN FROM THE CAR AS THE VEHICLE SWERVES...
... AND THE CAR IN WHICH THE SOUTH AMERICAN AMBASSADOR OF GOOD WILL IS RIDING TURNS A SHARP CORNER!
LOOK... THEY'RE TURNING!
BUT TWO ALERT PAIRS OF EYES ARE WATCHING AND TWO BODIES COME INTO ACTION AS THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO ZOOM ALOFT!
THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR, KID! LET'S GO!
RIGHT, TORCH!

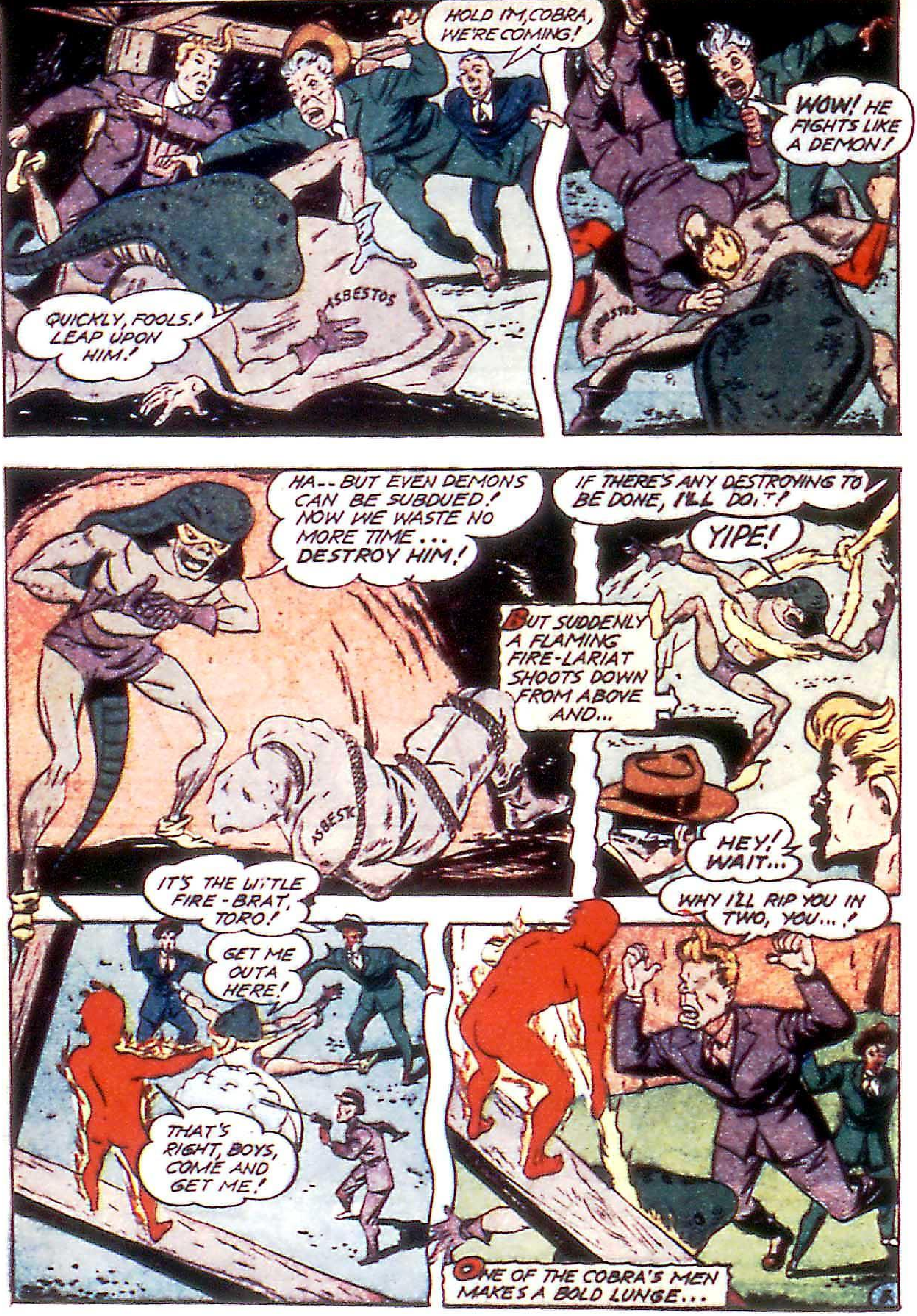

WH-WHERE ARE WE GOING? TH-THIS ISN'T THE ROUTE!
JUST SIT TIGHT AND SHUT UP!
LOOK! THE AMBASSADOR'S CAR... IT'S SPEEDING AWAY!
I COULDN'T STOP 'EM! IT-IT HAPPENED TOO FAST!
BUT THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO ARE HOT ON THE TRAIL!
THERE THEY ARE, TORCH!
DIVE, KID!
ARGH! THE TORCH AND TORO... I WAS WARNED TO WATCH FOR THEM... LUCKY I AM PREPARED!
BUT THE CHAUFFEUR PULLS A SMALL SWITCH IN THE CAR, AND...
LOOK OUT, TORO! GAS!
UGHHHHH!
3.

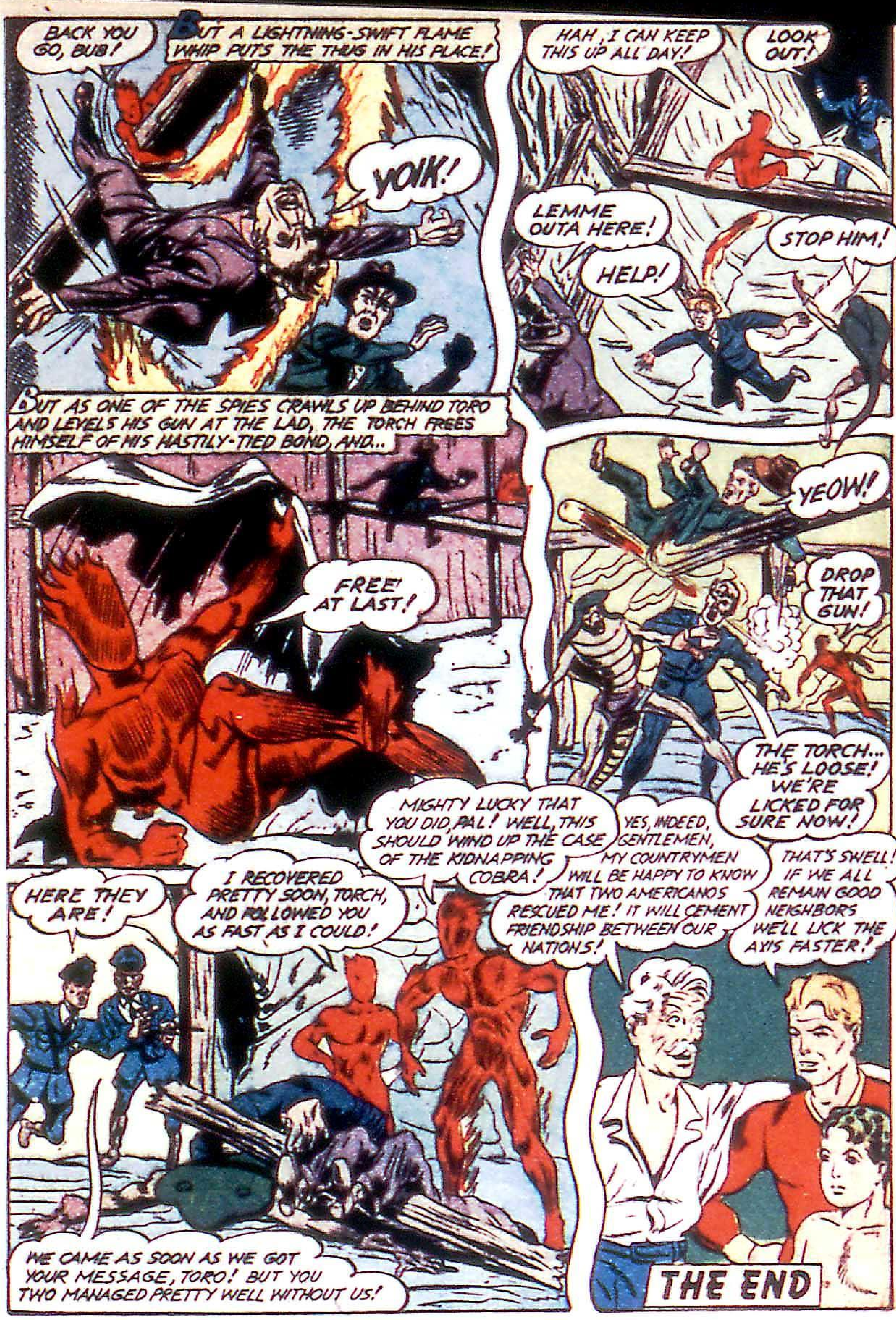

TORCH! OHHHH!
THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT! AWAY, NOW!
MINUTES LATER...
HOLY SMOKE! THERE'S THE TORCH AND TORO!
BUT, BUT... WHERE'D THE AMBASSADOR GET TO?
AFTER THE TORCH IS REVIVED, HE KNEELS BESIDE TORO...
IT MUST BE GAS!
I SENT FOR AN AMBULANCE... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT!
TORO... TORO, LAD! WAKE UP! OFFICER, WHAT'S WRONG?
GAS! THEN... THEN HE MAY NOT RECOVER! THOSE FIENDS! THOSE MURDEROUS FIENDS! I'LL DESTROY THEM IF IT COSTS MY LIFE! STAY WITH THE BOY TILL THE AMBULANCE COMES... I'M GONNA TAIL THOSE VERMIN!
BUT WAIT... HOW CAN YOU CATCH THEM... WAIT TILL HELP ARRIVES!
SORRY... I HAVEN'T TIME! SO LONG!

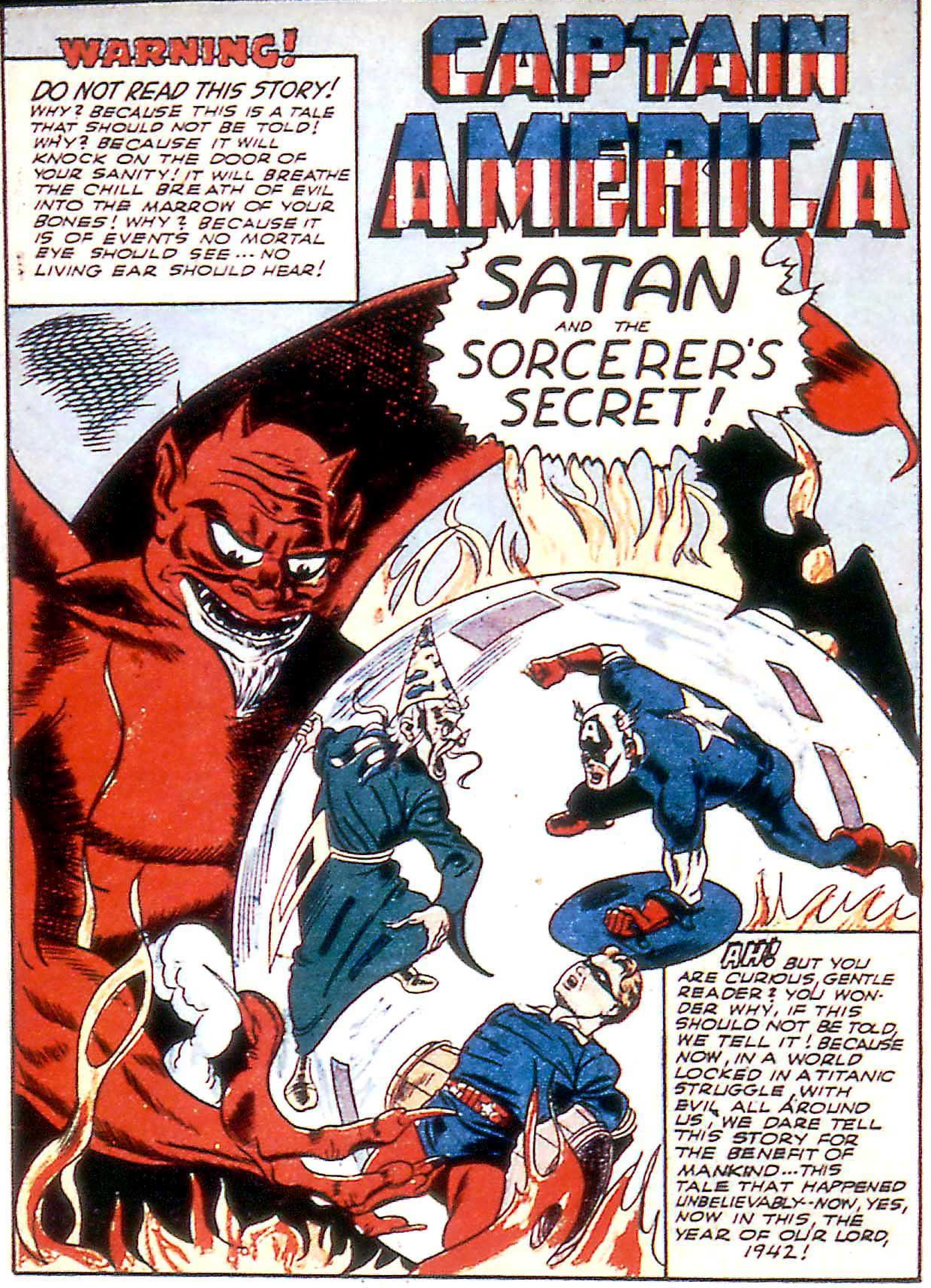

AT A SPEED WHICH WHISKS HIM ALONG BEFORE THE SCREAMING WIND, THE HUMAN TORCH FOLLOWS THE CAR TRACKS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S KIDNAPPERS!
I'LL GET THEM SOON... AND WHEN I DO---!!!
I'VE GOT TO STOP... JUST FOR A SECOND! AH... THAT'S BETTER!
HOURS LATER, TIRED, WEARY, AT THE POINT OF EXHAUSTION, THE FIERY AVENGER TURNS OFF HIS FLAME AND RESTS FOR A SECOND, UNTIL ABLE TO START AGAIN!
WHILE IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN CAPITOL, ANGRY CROWDS STORM THE STATE BUILDING!
WHERE IS OUR AMBASSADOR?
WHY DID NOT THE AMERICANOS PROTECT HIM?
SILENCE, PEOPLE! PLEASE! THE AMERICANOS WILL RESCUE OUR AMBASSADOR!
THOSE AMERICANOS... MAYBE THEY HARMED OUR AMBASSADOR THEMSELVES!
SO THAT'S WHERE THEY HID OUT, EH! A CAVE... DEEP IN THE HILLS!
HERE'S ONE "AMERICANO" WHO'S DOING ALL HE CAN TO BRING BACK THE AMBASSADOR... AFTER AGAIN TURNING ON HIS FLAME AND FOLLOWING THE CAR TRACKS, THE TORCH DISCOVERS...
OKAY, DOGS, HERE COMES JUSTICE!
3

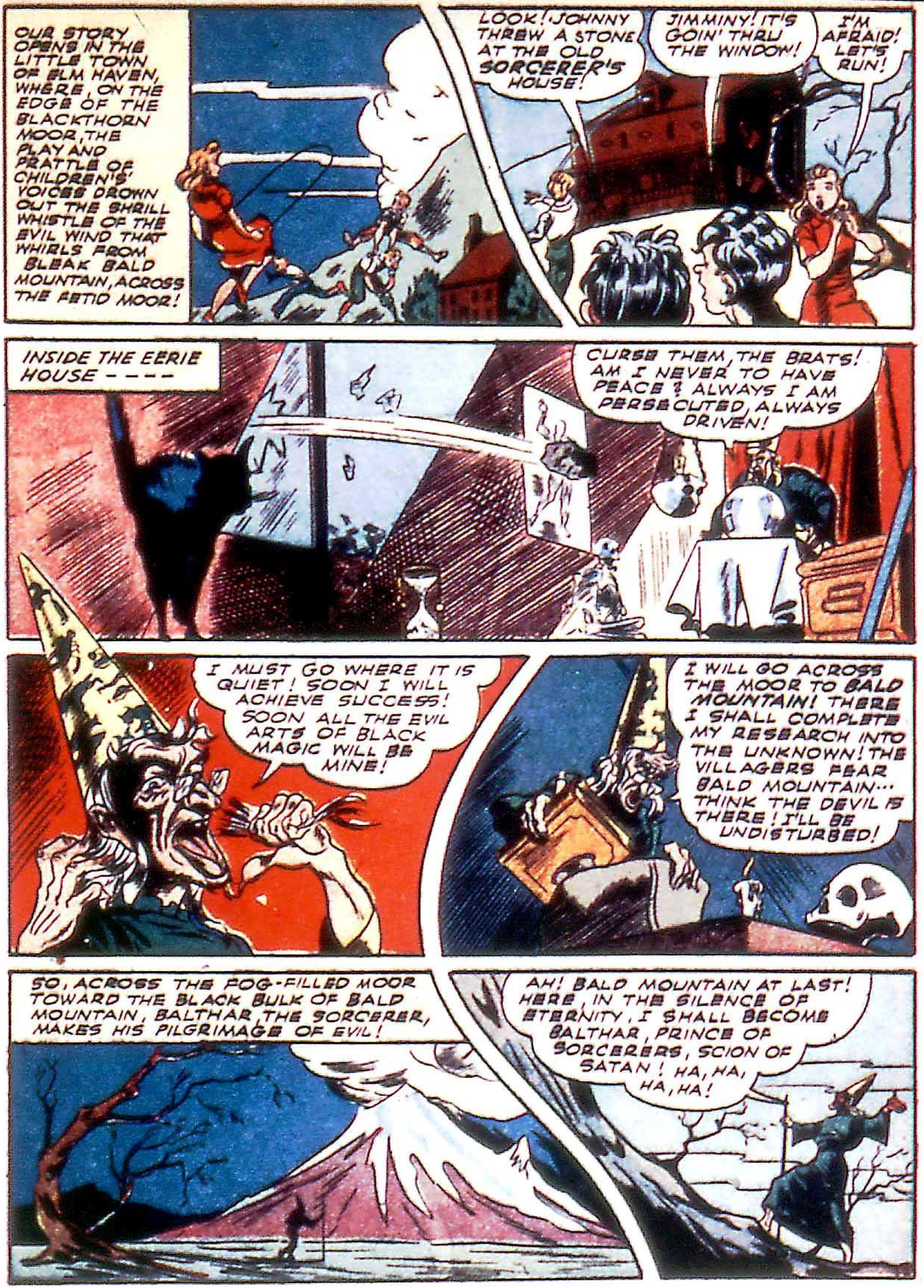

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE CAVE... A HORRIBLE SCENE IS BEING ENACTED!
"NOW AMBASSADOR, YOU WILL DIVULGE TO ME YOUR NATION'S WAR PLANS AGAINST GERMANY!"
NEVER!
SHOULD WE GIVE IT TO HIM NOW, COBRA?
SUDDENLY...
I HOPE YOU GENTLEMEN WILL PARDON THIS UNSEEMLY INTERUPTION!
LOOK!
HOLY SUFFRIN' SHARK-FINS— IT'S, IT'S—
THE HUMAN TORCH, AT YOUR SERVICE, RATS!
SCATTER, FOOLS! DON'T STAY TOGETHER! HE'LL GET YOU THAT WAY! SCATTER!
LIKE A RUNAWAY FOREST-FIRE, THE HUMAN TORCH BLAZES THRU THE ASTONISHED SPIES!

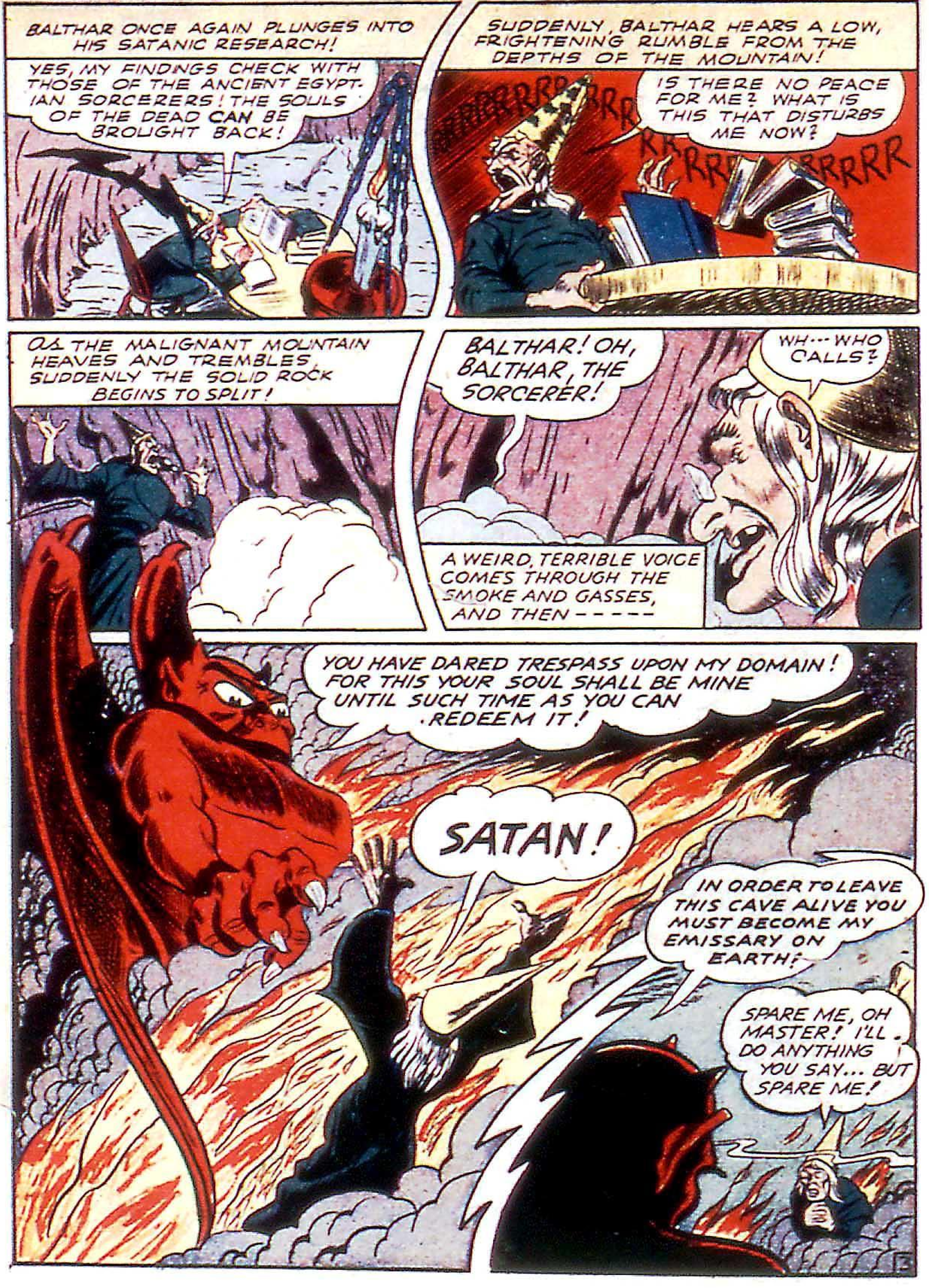

THIS'LL PUT A SQUELSH ON THAT FLAME!
QUICK! THROW THE ASBESTOS CLOTH OVER HIM!
ASBESTOS
MAYBE... BUT FIRST I'LL FREE THE AMBASSADOR!
A FLAMING FIRE-BALL ZIPS THRU THE AIR AND SEVERS THE AMBASSADOR'S BONDS!
WATER TANK
BUT THE NEWLY-FREED PRISONER IS SOON OVER-POWERED BY ONE OF THE COBRA'S MEN!
OH!
THIS'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
YIPE!
AND THIS'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, COWARD!
ASBESTOS
ANOTHER FIRE-BALL LASHES OUT FROM THE HAND OF THE MADDENED TORCH!
ASBESTOS
I'LL GET YOU NOW!
YEOW!
AND HERE'S A TASTE OF A FIRE-WHIP WHICH SHOULD TAKE YOUR MINDS OFF KIDNAPPING AMBASSADORS!
HELP!
BUT THE WILY COBRA STEALS UP BEHIND THE TORCH AND...

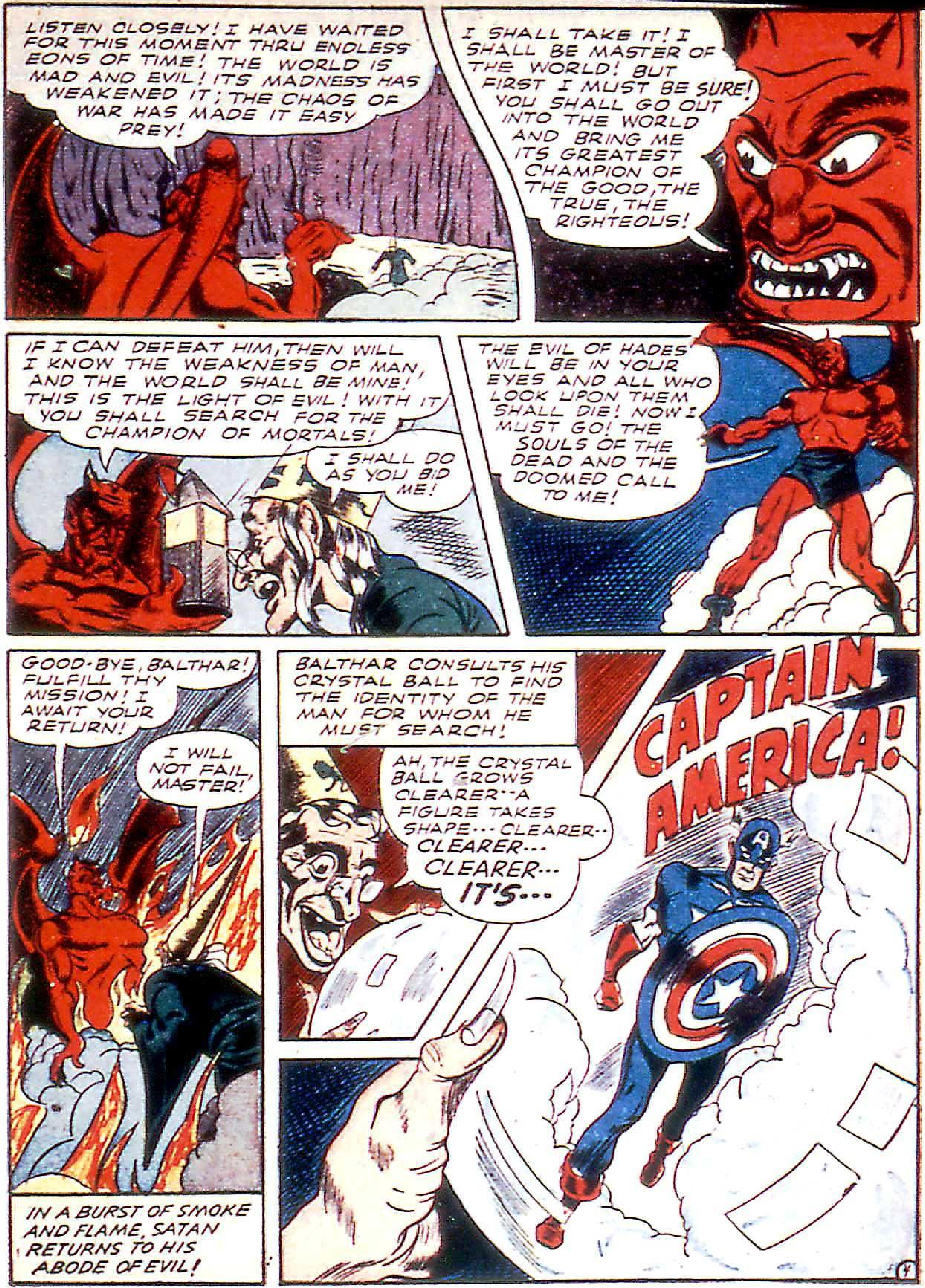

QUICKLY, FOOLS! LEAP UPON HIM!
HOLD 'IM, COBRA, WE'RE COMING!
ASBESTOS
WOW! HE FIGHTS LIKE A DEMON!
HA-- BUT EVEN DEMONS CAN BE SUBDUED! NOW WE WASTE NO MORE TIME... DESTROY HIM!
ASBESK
IF THERE'S ANY DESTROYING TO BE DONE, I'LL DO IT!
YIPE!
BUT SUDDENLY A FLAMING FIRE-LARIAT SHOOTS DOWN FROM ABOVE AND...
HEY! WAIT...
IT'S THE LITTLE FIRE-BRAT, TORO!
GET ME OUTA HERE!
THAT'S RIGHT, BOYS, COME AND GET ME!
WHY I'LL RIP YOU IN TWO, YOU...!
ONE OF THE COBRA'S MEN MAKES A BOLD LUNGE...

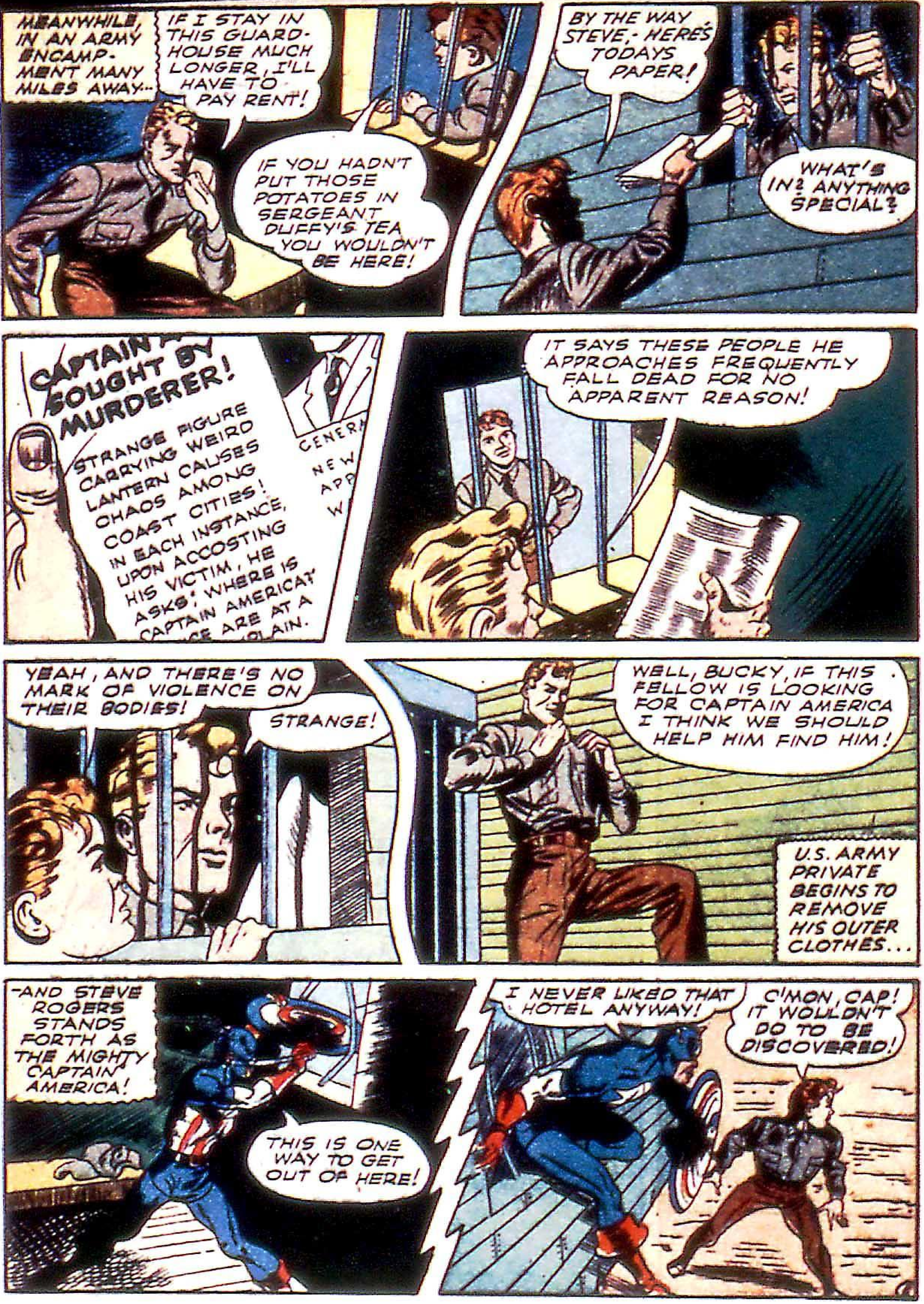

BACK YOU GO, BUB!
BUT A LIGHTNING-SWIFT FLAME WHIP PUTS THE THUG IN HIS PLACE!
YOIK!
HAH, I CAN KEEP THIS UP ALL DAY!
LOOK OUT!
LEMME OUTA HERE!
HELP!
STOP HIM!
BUT AS ONE OF THE SPIES CRAWLS UP BEHIND TORO AND LEVELS HIS GUN AT THE LAD, THE TORCH FREES HIMSELF OF HIS HASTILY-TIED BOND, AND...
FREE! AT LAST!
YEOW!
DROP THAT GUN!
THE TORCH... HE'S LOOSE! WE'RE LICKED FOR SURE NOW!
HERE THEY ARE!
I RECOVERED PRETTY SOON, TORCH, AND FOLLOWED YOU AS FAST AS I COULD!
MIGHTY LUCKY THAT YOU DID, PAL! WELL, THIS SHOULD WIND UP THE CASE OF THE KIDNAPPING COBRA!
WE CAME AS SOON AS WE GOT YOUR MESSAGE, TORO! BUT YOU TWO MANAGED PRETTY WELL WITHOUT US!
YES, INDEED, GENTLEMEN, MY COUNTRYMEN WILL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT TWO AMERICANOS RESCUED ME! IT WILL CEMENT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR NATIONS!
THAT'S SWELL! IF WE ALL REMAIN GOOD NEIGHBORS WE'LL LICK THE AXIS FASTER!
THE END

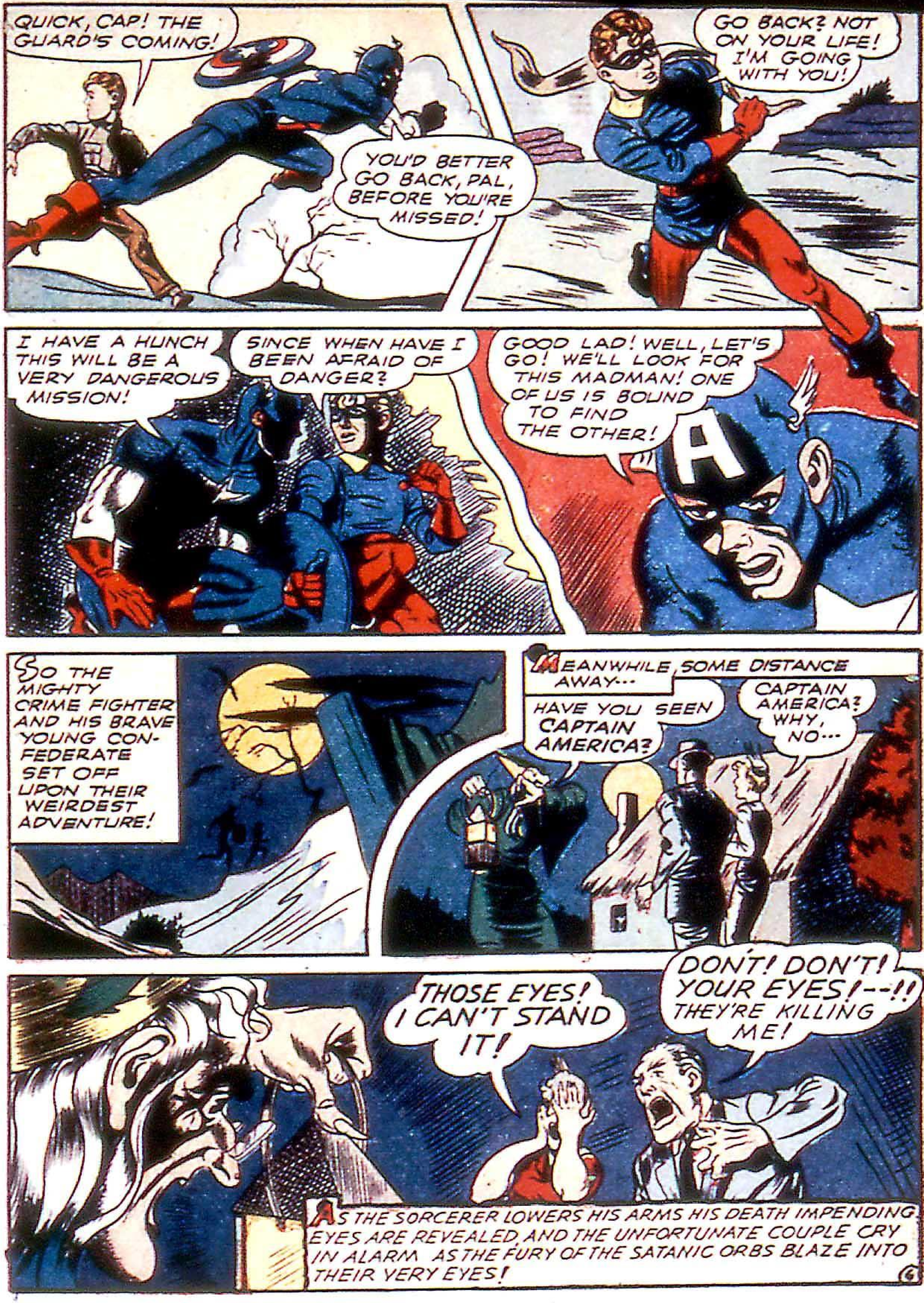

WARNING!
DO NOT READ THIS STORY! WHY? BECAUSE THIS IS A TALE THAT SHOULD NOT BE TOLD! WHY? BECAUSE IT WILL KNOCK ON THE DOOR OF YOUR SANITY! IT WILL BREATHE THE CHILL BREATH OF EVIL INTO THE MARROW OF YOUR BONES! WHY? BECAUSE IT IS OF EVENTS NO MORTAL EYE SHOULD SEE... NO LIVING EAR SHOULD HEAR!
CAPTAIN AMERICA
SATAN AND THE SORCERER'S SECRET!
AH! BUT YOU ARE CURIOUS, GENTLE READER? YOU WONDER WHY, IF THIS SHOULD NOT BE TOLD, WE TELL IT! BECAUSE NOW, IN A WORLD LOCKED IN A TITANIC STRUGGLE WITH EVIL ALL AROUND US, WE DARE TELL THIS STORY FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND...THIS TALE THAT HAPPENED UNBELIEVABLY--NOW, YES, NOW IN THIS, THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 1942!

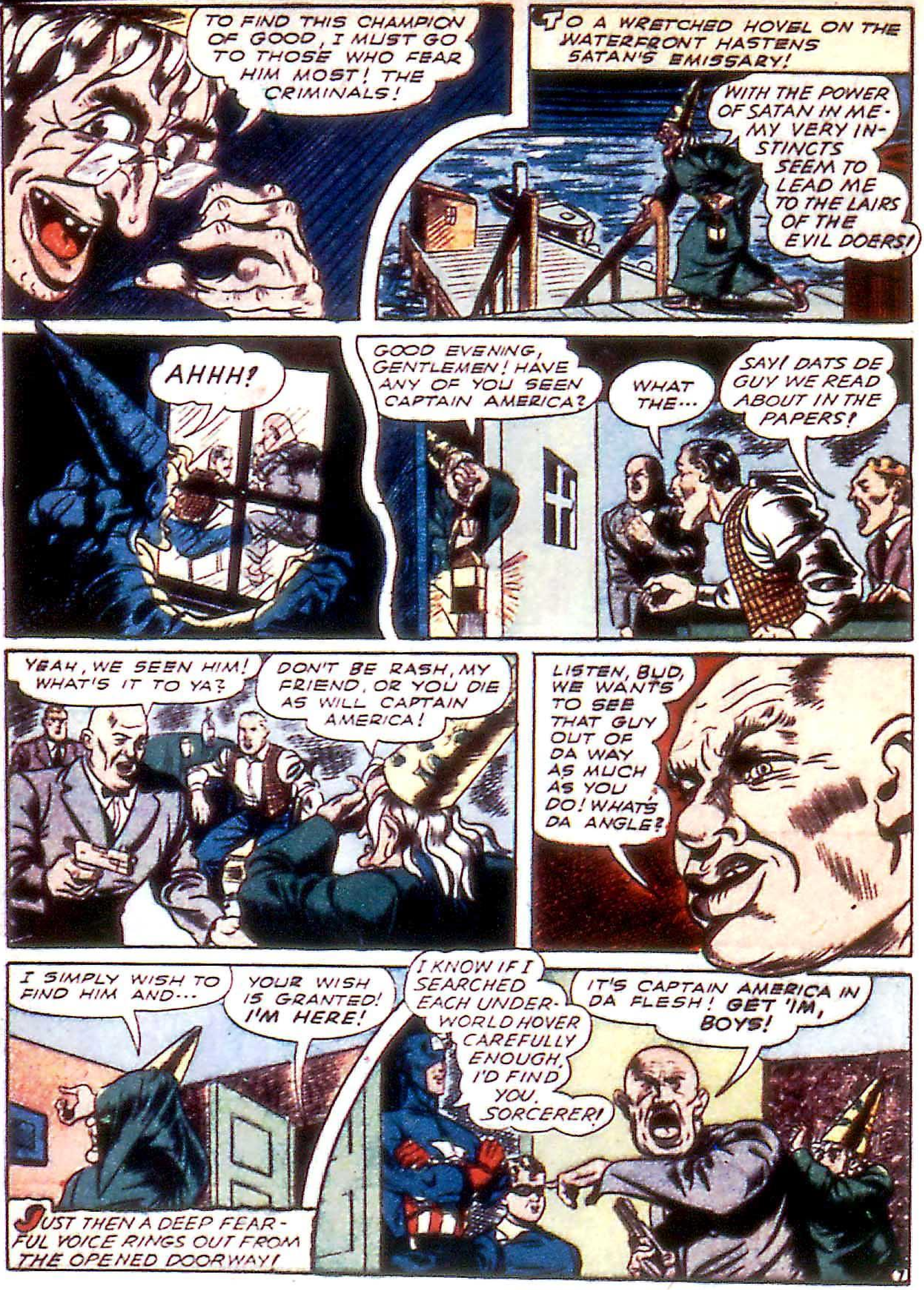

OUR STORY OPENS IN THE LITTLE TOWN OF ELM HAVEN, WHERE, ON THE EDGE OF THE BLACKTHORN MOOR, THE PLAY AND PRATTLE OF CHILDREN'S' VOICES DROWN OUT THE SHRILL WHISTLE OF THE EVIL WIND THAT WHIRLS FROM BLEAK BALD MOUNTAIN, ACROSS THE FETID MOOR!
LOOK! JOHNNY THREW A STONE AT THE OLD SORCERER'S HOUSE!
JIMMINY! IT'S GOIN' THRU THE WINDOW!
I'M AFRAID! LET'S RUN!
INSIDE THE EERIE HOUSE ----
CURSE THEM, THE BRATS! AM I NEVER TO HAVE PEACE? ALWAYS I AM PERSECUTED, ALWAYS DRIVEN!
I MUST GO WHERE IT IS QUIET! SOON I WILL ACHIEVE SUCCESS! SOON ALL THE EVIL ARTS OF BLACK MAGIC WILL BE MINE!
I WILL GO ACROSS THE MOOR TO BALD MOUNTAIN! THERE I SHALL COMPLETE MY RESEARCH INTO THE UNKNOWN! THE VILLAGERS FEAR BALD MOUNTAIN... THINK THE DEVIL IS THERE! I'LL BE UNDISTURBED!
SO, ACROSS THE FOG-FILLED MOOR TOWARD THE BLACK BULK OF BALD MOUNTAIN, BALTHAR THE SORCERER, MAKES HIS PILGRIMAGE OF EVIL!
AH! BALD MOUNTAIN AT LAST! HERE, IN THE SILENCE OF ETERNITY, I SHALL BECOME BALTHAR, PRINCE OF SORCERERS, SCION OF SATAN! HA, HA, HA, HA!

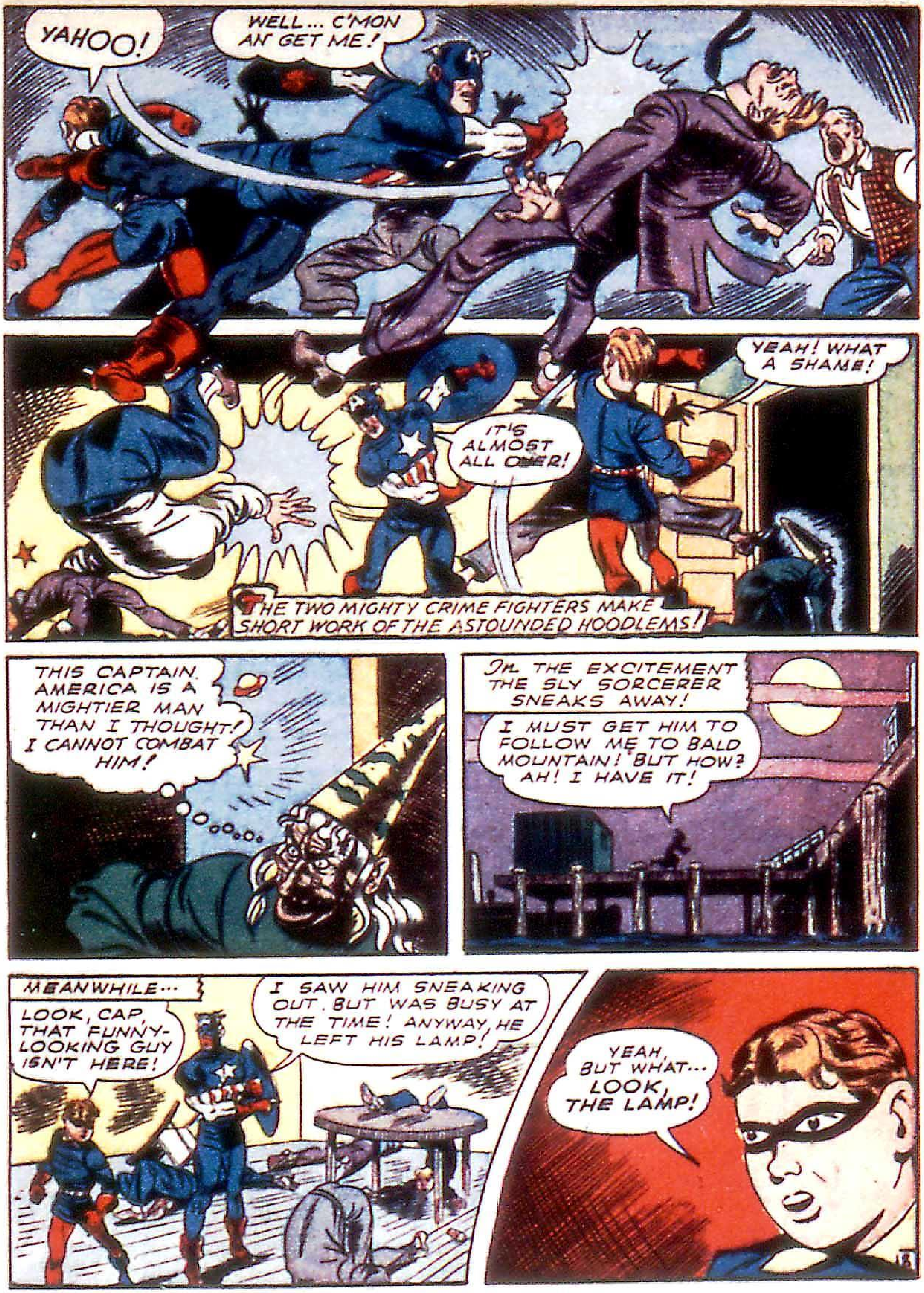

BALTHAR ONCE AGAIN PLUNGES INTO HIS SATANIC RESEARCH!
YES, MY FINDINGS CHECK WITH THOSE OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SORCERERS! THE SOULS OF THE DEAD CAN BE BROUGHT BACK!
SUDDENLY, BALTHAR HEARS A LOW, FRIGHTENING RUMBLE FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE MOUNTAIN!
RRRRRRRRRR
IS THERE NO PEACE FOR ME? WHAT IS THIS THAT DISTURBS ME NOW?
RRRRRRRRRRRR
AS THE MALIGNANT MOUNTAIN HEAVES AND TREMBLES, SUDDENLY THE SOLID ROCK BEGINS TO SPLIT!
BALTHAR! OH, BALTHAR, THE SORCERER!
WH...WHO CALLS?
A WEIRD, TERRIBLE VOICE COMES THROUGH THE SMOKE AND GASSES, AND THEN -----
YOU HAVE DARED TRESPASS UPON MY DOMAIN! FOR THIS YOUR SOUL SHALL BE MINE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS YOU CAN REDEEM IT!
SATAN!
IN ORDER TO LEAVE THIS CAVE ALIVE YOU MUST BECOME MY EMISSARY ON EARTH!
SPARE ME, OH MASTER! I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY... BUT SPARE ME!

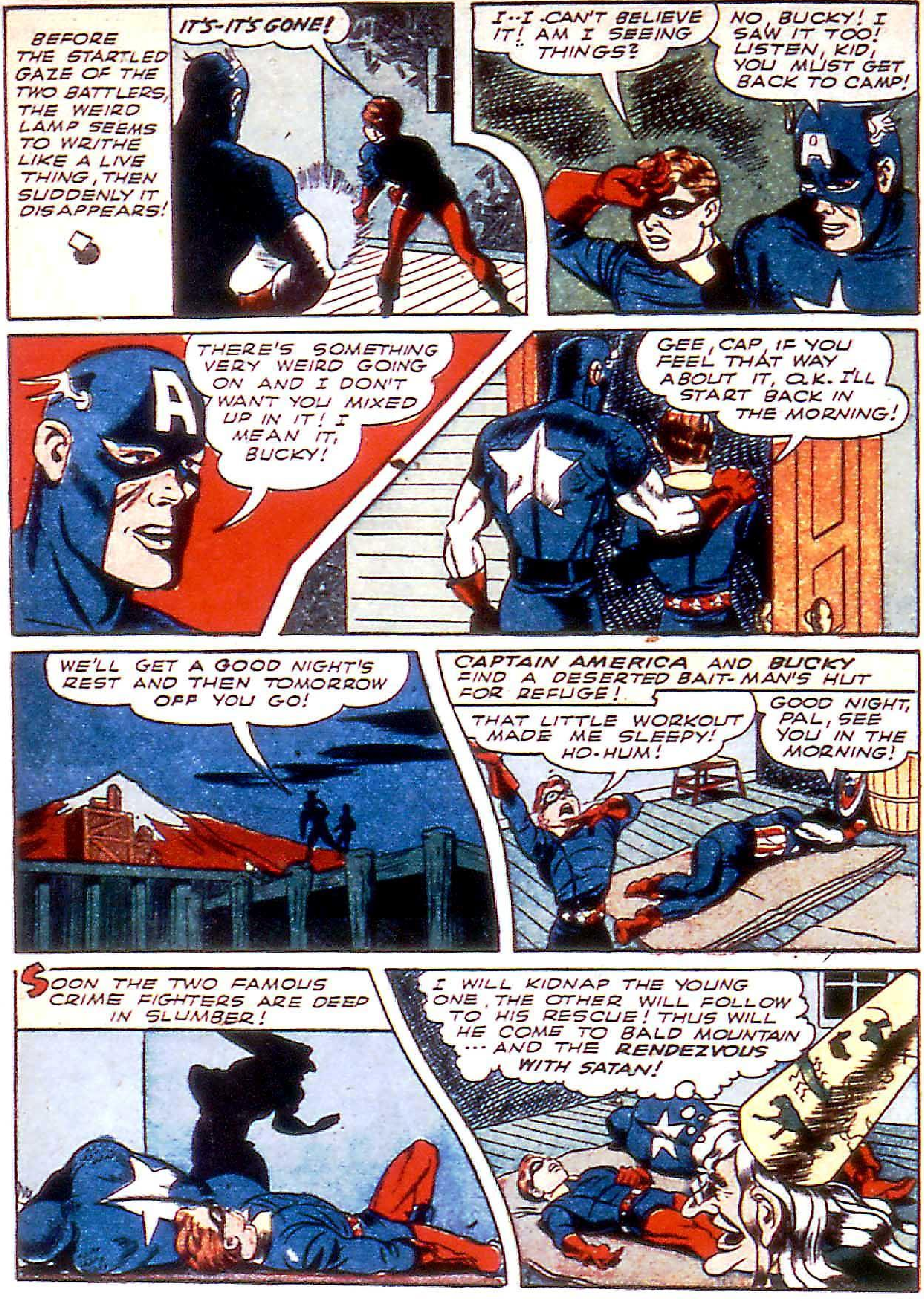

LISTEN CLOSELY! I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT THRU ENDLESS EONS OF TIME! THE WORLD IS MAD AND EVIL! ITS MADNESS HAS WEAKENED IT; THE CHAOS OF WAR HAS MADE IT EASY PREY!
I SHALL TAKE IT! I SHALL BE MASTER OF THE WORLD! BUT FIRST I MUST BE SURE! YOU SHALL GO OUT INTO THE WORLD AND BRING ME ITS GREATEST CHAMPION OF THE GOOD, THE TRUE, THE RIGHTEOUS!
IF I CAN DEFEAT HIM, THEN WILL I KNOW THE WEAKNESS OF MAN, AND THE WORLD SHALL BE MINE! THIS IS THE LIGHT OF EVIL! WITH IT YOU SHALL SEARCH FOR THE CHAMPION OF MORTALS!
I SHALL DO AS YOU BID ME!
THE EVIL OF HADES WILL BE IN YOUR EYES AND ALL WHO LOOK UPON THEM SHALL DIE! NOW I MUST GO! THE SOULS OF THE DEAD AND THE DOOMED CALL TO ME!
GOOD-BYE, BALTHAR! FULFILL THY MISSION! I AWAIT YOUR RETURN!
I WILL NOT FAIL, MASTER!
IN A BURST OF SMOKE AND FLAME, SATAN RETURNS TO HIS ABODE OF EVIL!
BALTHAR CONSULTS HIS CRYSTAL BALL TO FIND THE IDENTITY OF THE MAN FOR WHOM HE MUST SEARCH!
AH, THE CRYSTAL BALL GROWS CLEARER··A FIGURE TAKES SHAPE··· CLEARER·· CLEARER··· CLEARER··· IT'S···
CAPTAIN AMERICA!

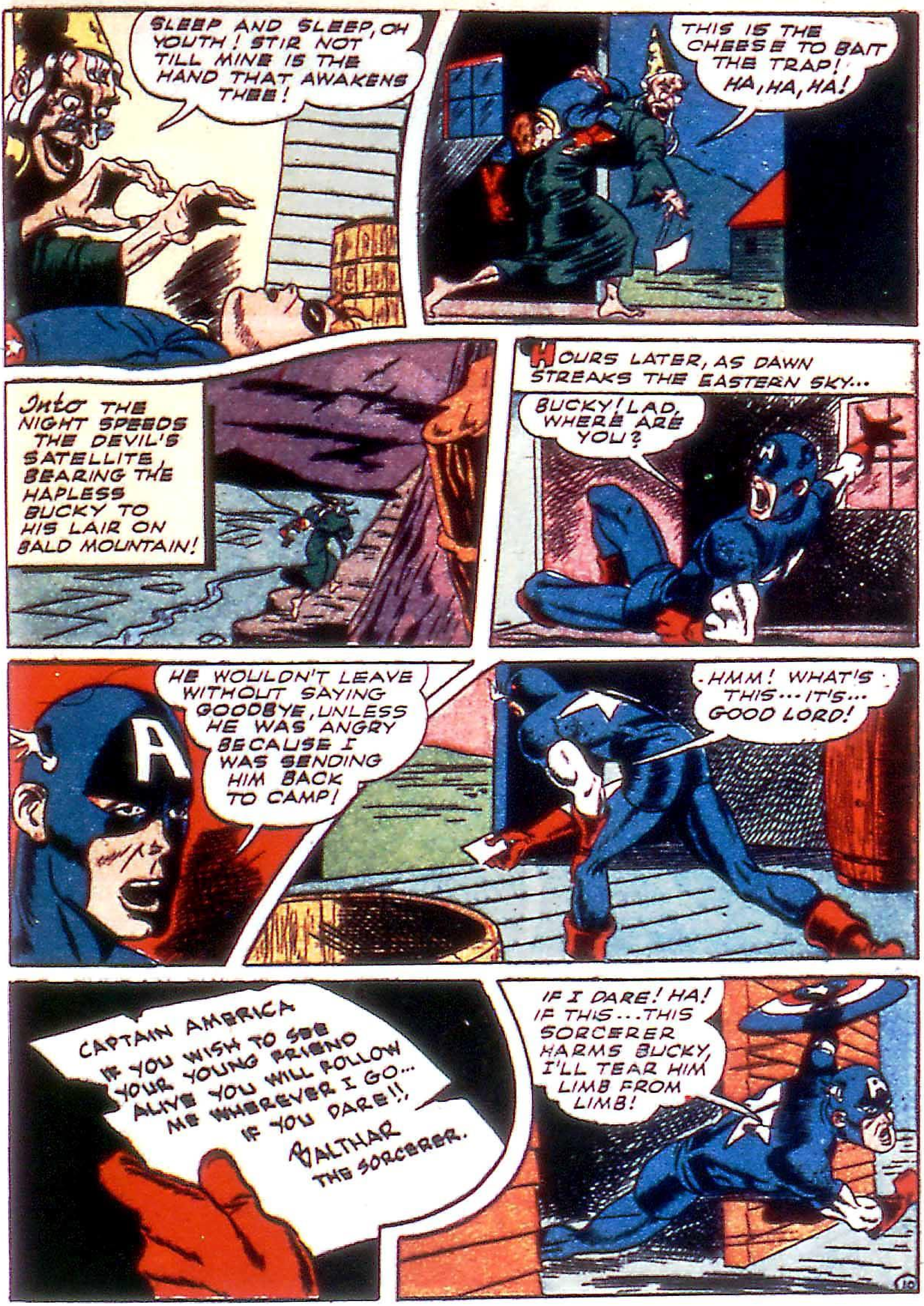

MEANWHILE, IN AN ARMY ENCAMPMENT MANY MILES AWAY...
IF I STAY IN THIS GUARD-HOUSE MUCH LONGER, I'LL HAVE TO PAY RENT!
IF YOU HADN'T PUT THOSE POTATOES IN SERGEANT DUFFY'S TEA YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE!
BY THE WAY STEVE, - HERE'S TODAYS PAPER!
WHAT'S IN? ANYTHING SPECIAL?
CAPTAIN A SOUGHT BY MURDERER!
STRANGE FIGURE CARRYING WEIRD LANTERN CAUSES CHAOS AMONG COAST CITIES! IN EACH INSTANCE, UPON ACCOSTING HIS VICTIM, HE ASKS, "WHERE IS CAPTAIN AMERICA?" CE ARE AT A PLAIN.
GENERA
NEW
APP
W
IT SAYS THESE PEOPLE HE APPROACHES FREQUENTLY FALL DEAD FOR NO APPARENT REASON!
YEAH, AND THERE'S NO MARK OF VIOLENCE ON THEIR BODIES!
STRANGE!
WELL, BUCKY, IF THIS FELLOW IS LOOKING FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA I THINK WE SHOULD HELP HIM FIND HIM!
U.S. ARMY PRIVATE BEGINS TO REMOVE HIS OUTER CLOTHES...
-AND STEVE ROGERS STANDS FORTH AS THE MIGHTY CAPTAIN AMERICA!
THIS IS ONE WAY TO GET OUT OF HERE!
I NEVER LIKED THAT HOTEL ANYWAY!
C'MON, CAP! IT WOULDN'T DO TO BE DISCOVERED!

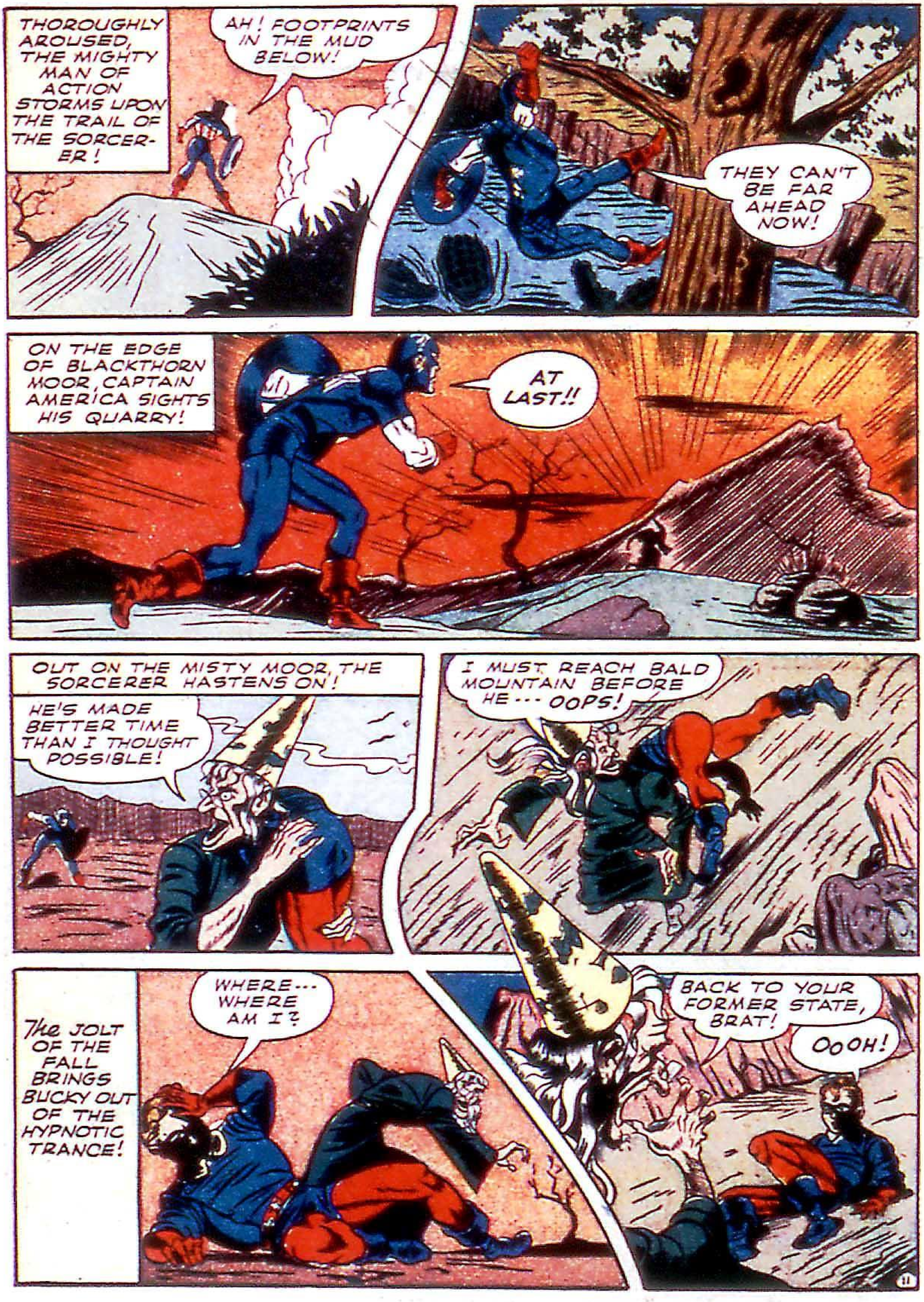

QUICK, CAP! THE GUARD'S COMING!
YOU'D BETTER GO BACK, PAL, BEFORE YOU'RE MISSED!
GO BACK? NOT ON YOUR LIFE! I'M GOING WITH YOU!
I HAVE A HUNCH THIS WILL BE A VERY DANGEROUS MISSION!
SINCE WHEN HAVE I BEEN AFRAID OF DANGER?
GOOD LAD! WELL, LET'S GO! WE'LL LOOK FOR THIS MADMAN! ONE OF US IS BOUND TO FIND THE OTHER!
A
SO THE MIGHTY CRIME FIGHTER AND HIS BRAVE YOUNG CONFEDERATE SET OFF UPON THEIR WEIRDEST ADVENTURE!
MEANWHILE, SOME DISTANCE AWAY...
HAVE YOU SEEN CAPTAIN AMERICA?
CAPTAIN AMERICA? WHY, NO...
THOSE EYES! I CAN'T STAND IT!
DONT! DON'T! YOUR EYES!--!! THEY'RE KILLING ME!
AS THE SORCERER LOWERS HIS ARMS HIS DEATH IMPENDING EYES ARE REVEALED, AND THE UNFORTUNATE COUPLE CRY IN ALARM AS THE FURY OF THE SATANIC ORBS BLAZE INTO THEIR VERY EYES!

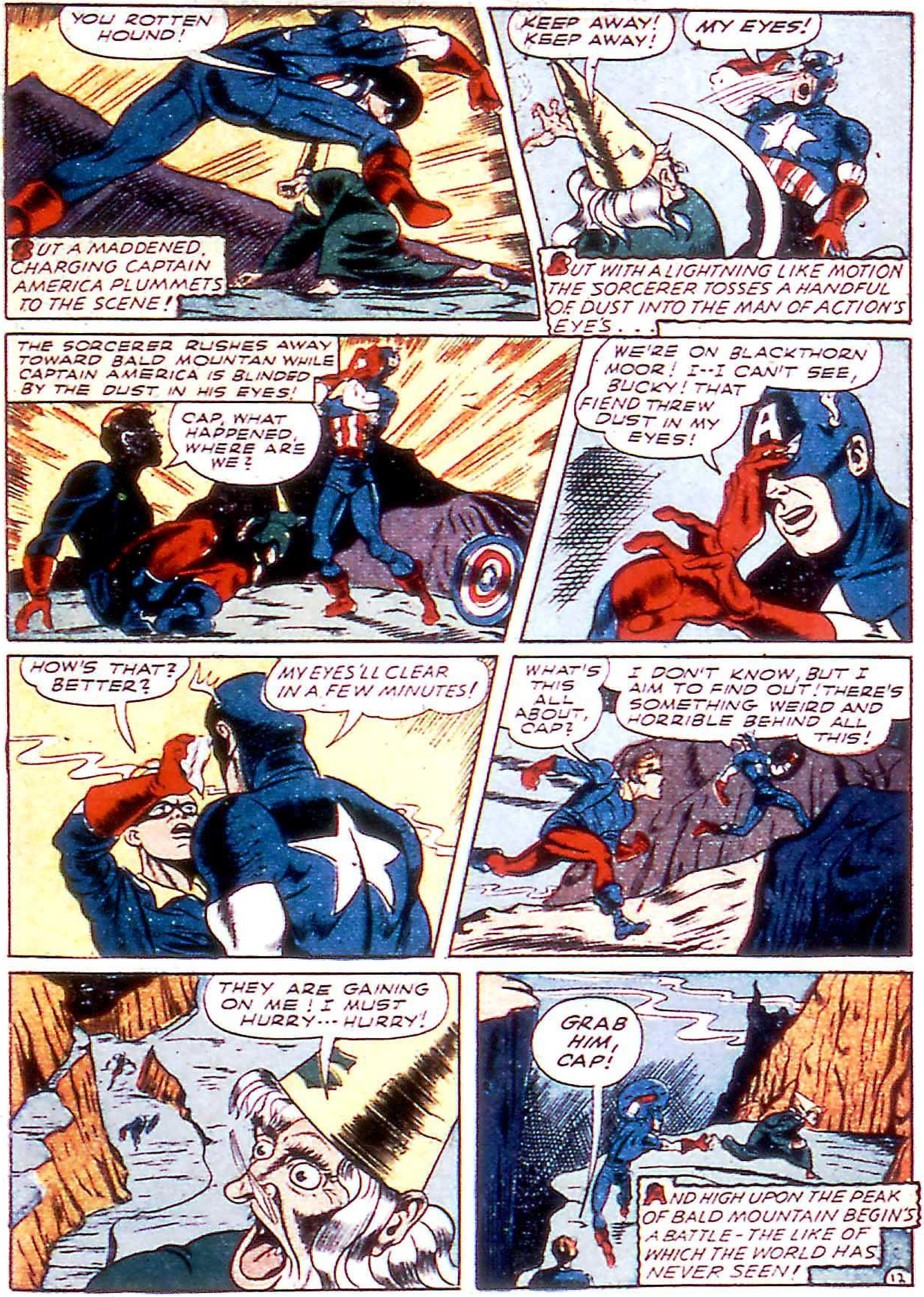

TO FIND THIS CHAMPION OF GOOD, I MUST GO TO THOSE WHO FEAR HIM MOST! THE CRIMINALS!
TO A WRETCHED HOVEL ON THE WATERFRONT HASTENS SATAN'S EMISSARY!
WITH THE POWER OF SATAN IN ME-MY VERY INSTINCTS SEEM TO LEAD ME TO THE LAIRS OF THE EVIL DOERS!
AHHH!
GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN! HAVE ANY OF YOU SEEN CAPTAIN AMERICA?
WHAT THE...
SAY! DATS DE GUY WE READ ABOUT IN THE PAPERS!
YEAH, WE SEEN HIM! WHAT'S IT TO YA?
DON'T BE RASH, MY FRIEND, OR YOU DIE AS WILL CAPTAIN AMERICA!
LISTEN, BUD, WE WANTS TO SEE THAT GUY OUT OF DA WAY AS MUCH AS YOU DO! WHAT'S DA ANGLE?
I SIMPLY WISH TO FIND HIM AND...
YOUR WISH IS GRANTED! I'M HERE!
I KNOW IF I SEARCHED EACH UNDERWORLD HOVER CAREFULLY ENOUGH, I'D FIND YOU. SORCERER!
IT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA IN DA FLESH! GET 'IM, BOYS!
JUST THEN A DEEP FEARFUL VOICE RINGS OUT FROM THE OPENED DOORWAY!

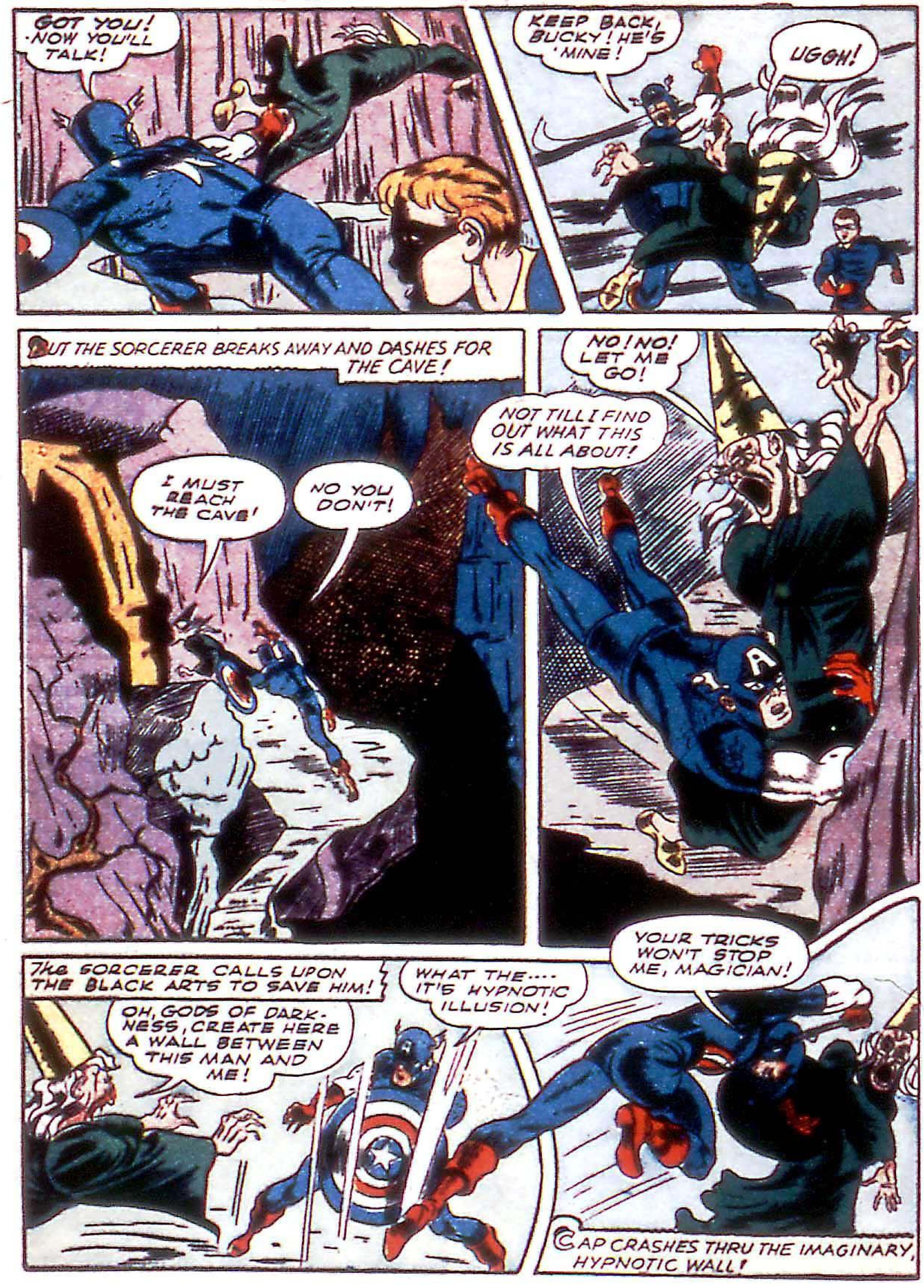

YAHOO!
WELL... C'MON AN' GET ME!
YEAH! WHAT A SHAME!
IT'S ALMOST ALL OVER!
THE TWO MIGHTY CRIME FIGHTERS MAKE SHORT WORK OF THE ASTOUNDED HOODLEMS!
THIS CAPTAIN AMERICA IS A MIGHTIER MAN THAN I THOUGHT! I CANNOT COMBAT HIM!
IN THE EXCITEMENT THE SLY SORCERER SNEAKS AWAY!
I MUST GET HIM TO FOLLOW ME TO BALD MOUNTAIN! BUT HOW? AH! I HAVE IT!
MEANWHILE...
LOOK, CAP, THAT FUNNY-LOOKING GUY ISN'T HERE!
I SAW HIM SNEAKING OUT. BUT WAS BUSY AT THE TIME! ANYWAY, HE LEFT HIS LAMP!
YEAH, BUT WHAT... LOOK, THE LAMP!

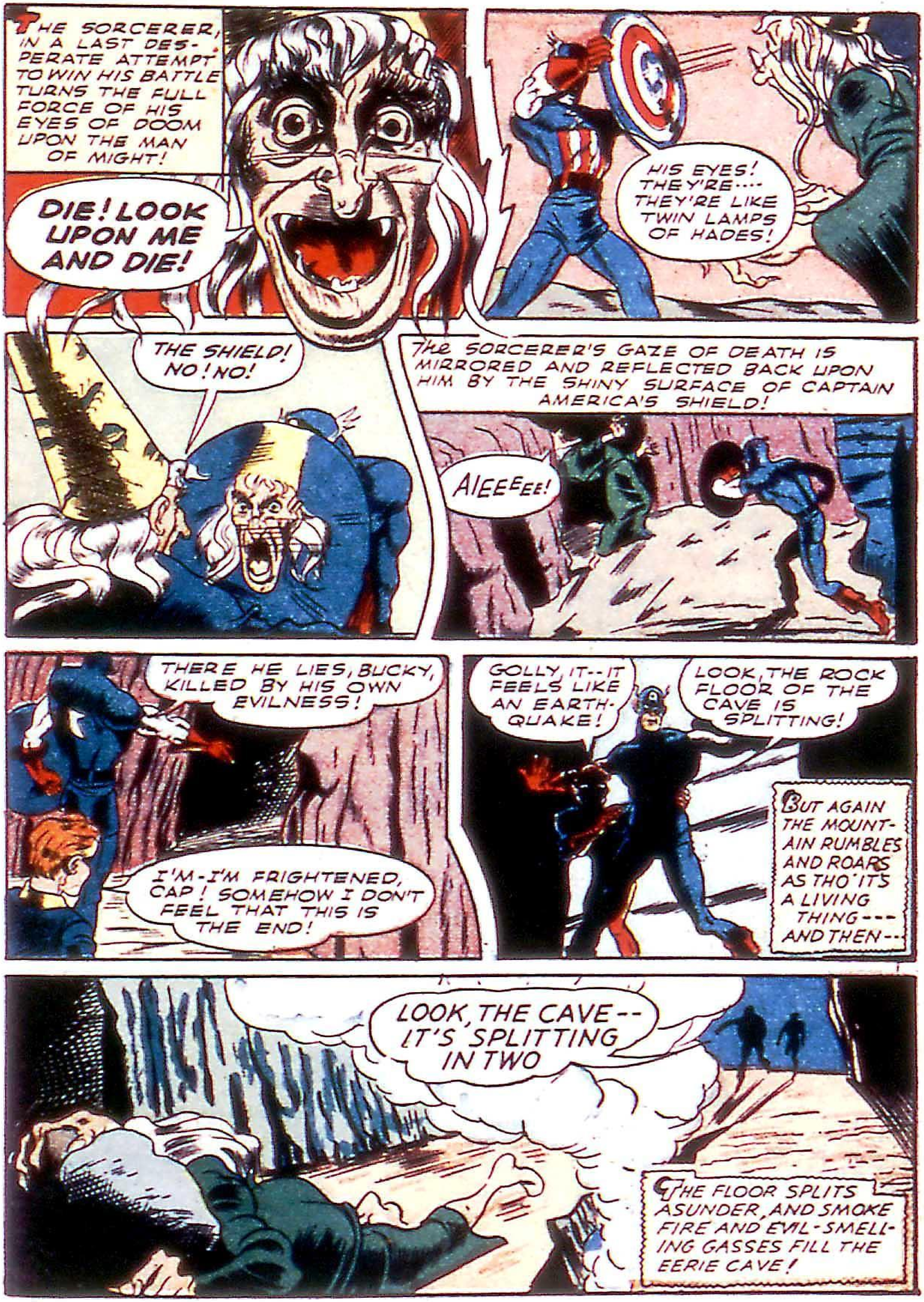

BEFORE THE STARTLED GAZE OF THE TWO BATTLERS, THE WEIRD LAMP SEEMS TO WRITHE LIKE A LIVE THING, THEN SUDDENLY IT DISAPPEARS!
IT'S-IT'S GONE!
I--I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! AM I SEEING THINGS?
NO, BUCKY! I SAW IT TOO! LISTEN, KID, YOU MUST GET BACK TO CAMP!
THERE'S SOMETHING VERY WEIRD GOING ON AND I DON'T WANT YOU MIXED UP IN IT! I MEAN IT, BUCKY!
GEE, CAP, IF YOU FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT IT, O.K. I'LL START BACK IN THE MORNING!
WE'LL GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST AND THEN TOMORROW OFF YOU GO!
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY FIND A DESERTED BAIT-MAN'S HUT FOR REFUGE!
THAT LITTLE WORKOUT MADE ME SLEEPY! HO-HUM!
GOOD NIGHT, PAL, SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!
SOON THE TWO FAMOUS CRIME FIGHTERS ARE DEEP IN SLUMBER!
I WILL KIDNAP THE YOUNG ONE, THE OTHER WILL FOLLOW TO HIS RESCUE! THUS WILL HE COME TO BALD MOUNTAIN ... AND THE RENDEZVOUS WITH SATAN!

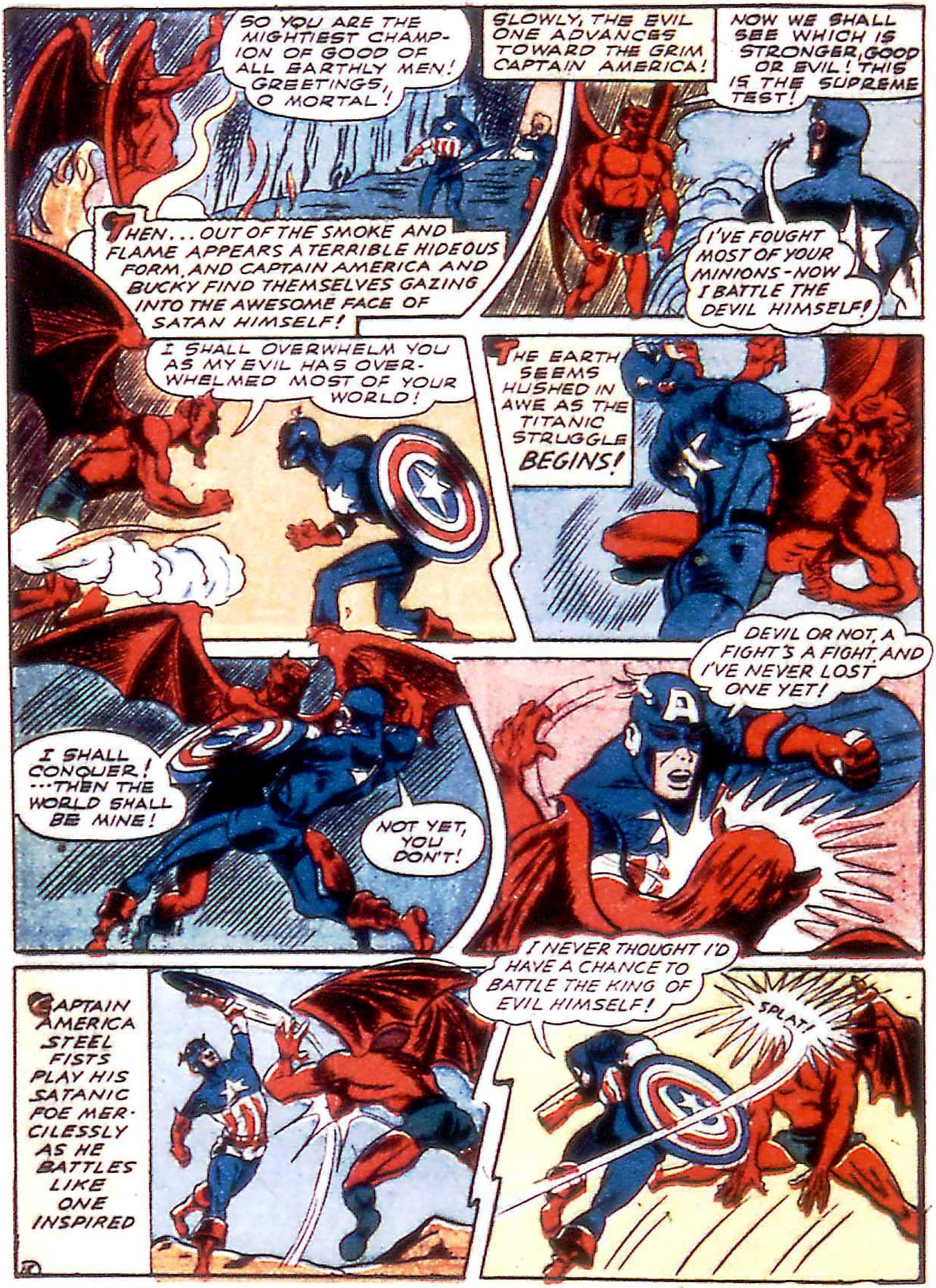

SLEEP AND SLEEP, OH YOUTH! STIR NOT TILL MINE IS THE HAND THAT AWAKENS THEE!
THIS IS THE CHEESE TO BAIT THE TRAP! HA, HA, HA!
Into THE NIGHT SPEEDS THE DEVIL'S SATELLITE, BEARING THE HAPLESS BUCKY TO HIS LAIR ON BALD MOUNTAIN!
HOURS LATER, AS DAWN STREAKS THE EASTERN SKY...
BUCKY! LAD, WHERE ARE YOU?
HE WOULDN'T LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE, UNLESS HE WAS ANGRY BECAUSE I WAS SENDING HIM BACK TO CAMP!
HMM! WHAT'S THIS... IT'S... GOOD LORD!
CAPTAIN AMERICA
IF YOU WISH TO SEE YOUR YOUNG FRIEND ALIVE YOU WILL FOLLOW ME WHEREVER I GO... IF YOU DARE!!
BALTHAR THE SORCERER.
IF I DARE! HA! IF THIS... THIS SORCERER HARMS BUCKY, I'LL TEAR HIM LIMB FROM LIMB!

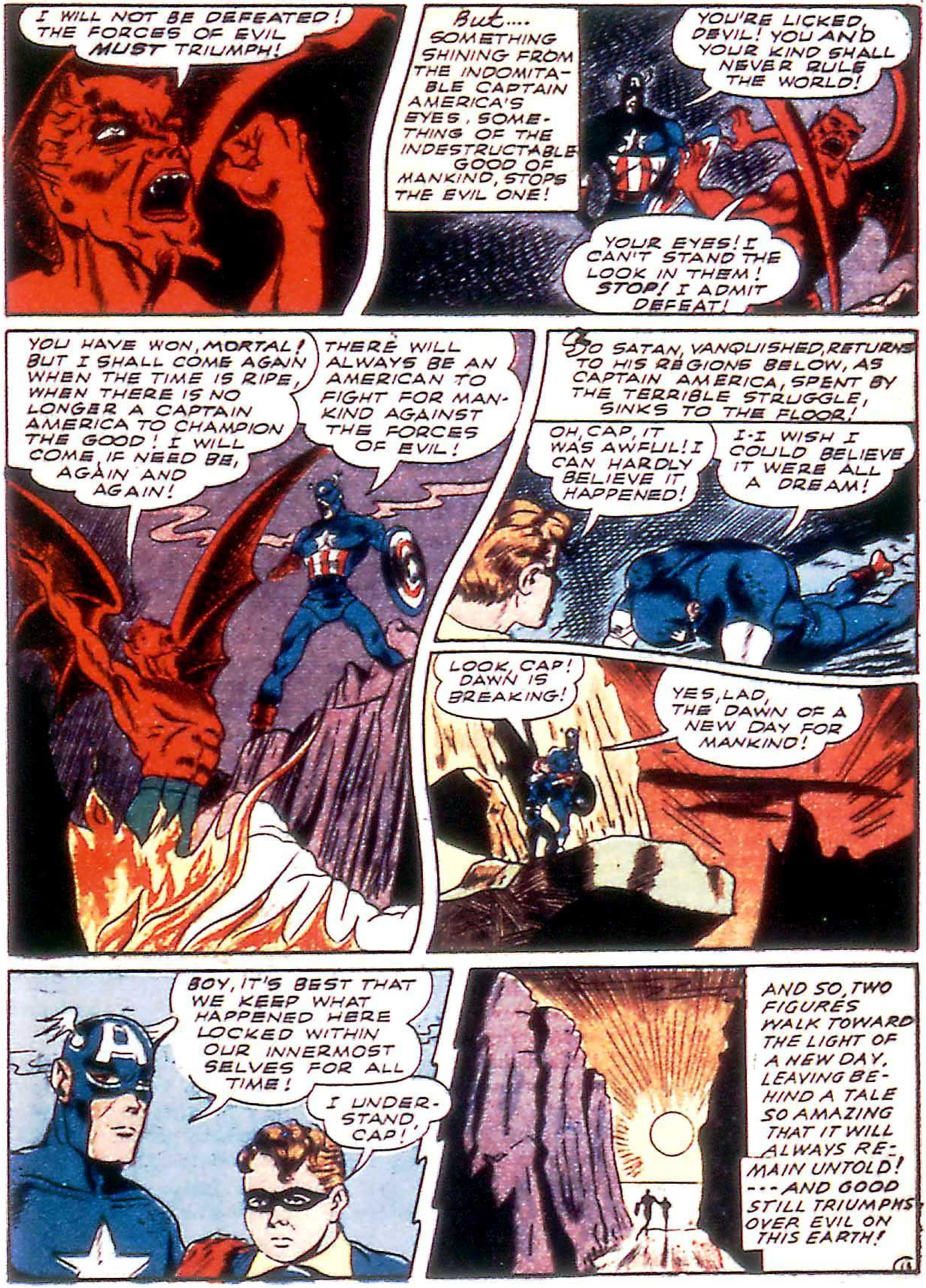

THOROUGHLY AROUSED, THE MIGHTY MAN OF ACTION STORMS UPON THE TRAIL OF THE SORCERER!
AH! FOOTPRINTS IN THE MUD BELOW!
THEY CAN'T BE FAR AHEAD NOW!
ON THE EDGE OF BLACKTHORN MOOR, CAPTAIN AMERICA SIGHTS HIS QUARRY!
AT LAST!!
OUT ON THE MISTY MOOR, THE SORCERER HASTENS ON!
HE'S MADE BETTER TIME THAN I THOUGHT POSSIBLE!
I MUST REACH BALD MOUNTAIN BEFORE HE --- OOPS!
The JOLT OF THE FALL BRINGS BUCKY OUT OF THE HYPNOTIC TRANCE!
WHERE... WHERE AM I?
BACK TO YOUR FORMER STATE, BRAT!
OOOH!


YOU ROTTEN HOUND!
BUT A MADDENED, CHARGING CAPTAIN AMERICA PLUMMETS TO THE SCENE!
KEEP AWAY! KEEP AWAY!
MY EYES!
BUT WITH A LIGHTNING LIKE MOTION THE SORCERER TOSSES A HANDFUL OF DUST INTO THE MAN OF ACTION'S EYE'S . . .
THE SORCERER RUSHES AWAY TOWARD BALD MOUNTAN WHILE CAPTAIN AMERICA IS BLINDED BY THE DUST IN HIS EYES!
CAP, WHAT HAPPENED, WHERE ARE WE?
WE'RE ON BLACKTHORN MOOR! I--I CAN'T SEE, BUCKY! THAT FIEND THREW DUST IN MY EYES!
HOW'S THAT? BETTER?
MY EYES'LL CLEAR IN A FEW MINUTES!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, CAP?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I AIM TO FIND OUT! THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD AND HORRIBLE BEHIND ALL THIS!
THEY ARE GAINING ON ME! I MUST HURRY--HURRY!
GRAB HIM, CAP!
AND HIGH UPON THE PEAK OF BALD MOUNTAIN BEGIN'S A BATTLE - THE LIKE OF WHICH THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN!


GOT YOU! NOW YOU'LL TALK!
KEEP BACK, BUCKY! HE'S 'MINE!
UGGH!
BUT THE SORCERER BREAKS AWAY AND DASHES FOR THE CAVE!
I MUST REACH THE CAVE!
NO YOU DON'T!
NO! NO! LET ME GO!
NOT TILL I FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
The SORCERER CALLS UPON THE BLACK ARTS TO SAVE HIM!
OH, GODS OF DARKNESS, CREATE HERE A WALL BETWEEN THIS MAN AND ME!
WHAT THE.... IT'S HYPNOTIC ILLUSION!
YOUR TRICKS WON'T STOP ME, MAGICIAN!
CAP CRASHES THRU THE IMAGINARY, HYPNOTIC WALL!


THE SORCERER, IN A LAST DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO WIN HIS BATTLE TURNS THE FULL FORCE OF HIS EYES OF DOOM UPON THE MAN OF MIGHT!
DIE! LOOK UPON ME AND DIE!
HIS EYES! THEY'RE.... THEY'RE LIKE TWIN LAMPS OF HADES!
THE SHIELD! NO! NO!
The SORCERER'S GAZE OF DEATH IS MIRRORED AND REFLECTED BACK UPON HIM BY THE SHINY SURFACE OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD!
AIEEEEE!
THERE HE LIES, BUCKY, KILLED BY HIS OWN EVILNESS!
I'M-I'M FRIGHTENED, CAP! SOMEHOW I DON'T FEEL THAT THIS IS THE END!
GOLLY, IT--IT FEELS LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE!
LOOK, THE ROCK FLOOR OF THE CAVE IS SPLITTING!
BUT AGAIN THE MOUNTAIN RUMBLES AND ROARS AS THO' IT'S A LIVING THING--- AND THEN--
LOOK, THE CAVE-- IT'S SPLITTING IN TWO
THE FLOOR SPLITS ASUNDER, AND SMOKE FIRE AND EVIL-SMELLING GASSES FILL THE EERIE CAVE!


SO YOU ARE THE MIGHTIEST CHAMPION OF GOOD OF ALL EARTHLY MEN! GREETINGS, O MORTAL!
SLOWLY, THE EVIL ONE ADVANCES TOWARD THE GRIM CAPTAIN AMERICA!
NOW WE SHALL SEE WHICH IS STRONGER, GOOD OR EVIL! THIS IS THE SUPREME TEST!
THEN... OUT OF THE SMOKE AND FLAME APPEARS A TERRIBLE HIDEOUS FORM, AND CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY FIND THEMSELVES GAZING INTO THE AWESOME FACE OF SATAN HIMSELF!
I'VE FOUGHT MOST OF YOUR MINIONS - NOW I BATTLE THE DEVIL HIMSELF!
I SHALL OVERWHELM YOU AS MY EVIL HAS OVERWHELMED MOST OF YOUR WORLD!
THE EARTH SEEMS HUSHED IN AWE AS THE TITANIC STRUGGLE BEGINS!
DEVIL OR NOT, A FIGHT'S A FIGHT, AND I'VE NEVER LOST ONE YET!
I SHALL CONQUER! ...THEN THE WORLD SHALL BE MINE!
NOT YET, YOU DON'T!
CAPTAIN AMERICA STEEL FISTS PLAY HIS SATANIC FOE MERCILESSLY AS HE BATTLES LIKE ONE INSPIRED
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE A CHANCE TO BATTLE THE KING OF EVIL HIMSELF!
SPLAT!


I WILL NOT BE DEFEATED! THE FORCES OF EVIL *MUST* TRIUMPH!
But.... SOMETHING SHINING FROM THE INDOMITABLE CAPTAIN AMERICA'S EYES, SOMETHING OF THE INDESTRUCTABLE GOOD OF MANKIND, STOPS THE EVIL ONE!
YOU'RE LICKED, DEVIL! YOU AND YOUR KIND SHALL NEVER RULE THE WORLD!
YOUR EYES! I CAN'T STAND THE LOOK IN THEM! *STOP!* I ADMIT DEFEAT!
YOU HAVE WON, **MORTAL!** BUT I SHALL COME AGAIN WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE, WHEN THERE IS NO LONGER A CAPTAIN AMERICA TO CHAMPION THE GOOD! I WILL COME IF NEED BE, AGAIN AND AGAIN!
THERE WILL ALWAYS BE AN AMERICAN TO FIGHT FOR MANKIND AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL!
SO SATAN, VANQUISHED, RETURNS TO HIS REGIONS BELOW, AS CAPTAIN AMERICA, SPENT BY THE TERRIBLE STRUGGLE, SINKS TO THE FLOOR!
OH, CAP, IT WAS AWFUL! I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT HAPPENED!
I-I WISH I COULD BELIEVE IT WERE ALL A DREAM!
LOOK, CAP! DAWN IS BREAKING!
YES, LAD, THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY FOR MANKIND!
BOY, IT'S BEST THAT WE KEEP WHAT HAPPENED HERE LOCKED WITHIN OUR INNERMOST SELVES FOR ALL TIME!
I UNDERSTAND, CAP!
AND SO, TWO FIGURES WALK TOWARD THE LIGHT OF A NEW DAY, LEAVING BEHIND A TALE SO AMAZING THAT IT WILL ALWAYS REMAIN UNTOLD! ---AND GOOD STILL TRIUMPHS OVER EVIL ON THIS EARTH!
15

CATCH THAT FIREBUG!

MICKEY FORREST ran as fast as he could and he got to the door of the rooming house in time to see the man climbing the stairs to the second floor. And just as the man rounded the top of the stairs he looked back and Mickey could see his face in the glow from the hall light. The man was "Matches" Birken.

Mickey ran outside and down to the hamburger diner on the corner. Because he was only thirteen years old, he had to stand on tip-toe but he managed to dial police headquarters. "Lieutenant Malone, this is Mickey Forrest. Matches Birken has shown up again and he's got his old room in Mrs. Murphy's rooming house!"

The Lieutenant was tickled pink. "Good work, Mickey! I'm coming over right away in a squad car and I want to be sure Matches is there when I arrive. I want you to go up to his room and do whatever you can to keep him in his room for ten or fifteen finutes."

Lieutenant Malone faced the Inspector across the latter's desk. "Matches Birken is back in town. I figured to run over and face him with a copy of that letter from Dude Haney that the FBI boys in Chicago intercepted and sent to us. Of course, we can't be sure that the letter was meant for Birken but I'm playing a hunch that it was. Can I have a copy?"

The Inspector took a sheet from a file and glanced at it. "This is simply a hand-written letter giving instructions to somebody to pick up six bonds at a lawyer's office and it gives the serial numbers of the six bonds."

Malone grinned as he took the letter and glanced at the precise rows of figures.

639296
312213
214369723
121121121
5239456
1112212

"Maybe I've been reading too many detective stories lately but I figure that letter as being some kind of a code."

"Nevertheless, Malone, our experts can't break those serial numbers down to any known code and if they can't nobody can. But I wish you luck, Malone. The fire commissioner is squawking his head off and is insisting that the police department show some results, quick."

Mickey Forrest rapped on the door of Matches Birken's room and he had a funny feeling in his spine. This Birken was a big man and a known criminal and Mickey realized that he didn't have any business monkeying around with such desperate characters. But he was going to do his best to help Lieutenant Malone.

The door opened just a tiny crack and Mickey could see Matches' pig eyes glaring at him. "What do you want, kid? Don't bother me. I got work to do."

"I gotta talk to you," Mickey stammered. "It's pretty important. It won't take very long if you'll just let me in."

"Tell it to me from out there, kid."

Mickey stuck his foot in the door and brazenly pushed his way into the room in spite of Birken's scowl of protest. The room was furnished with only a bed, a dresser and a scarred table upon which a typewriter was placed.

"Matches!" exclaimed Mickey, "what a dilly of a typewriter! Where'd you get it?"

Birken didn't know exactly what to do or say because of the brashness of this nosey kid. "You'd think I was such a dumb cluck that I ain't got no right to have a typewriter. Tell me what you got that's important and then scram out of here."

Mickey advanced to the typewriter. "You know, Matches, I sure would like to borrow this typewriter some time. I take typing at school and I could sure learn faster if I could practice at home on a machine like this."

Birken seemed panicky. "O.K., kid. You can borrow the typewriter any time you want. Only get out of here. I got work to do."

Just then there was a lound banging on the hall door.

Matches was across the room in a flash. He twisted the key and locked the door.

He barked, "Who's there?"

Lieutenant Malone's voice came back through the panel. "Unlock the door, Birken! I got some questions to ask you."

Matches didn't waste any time. He ran for the window and on the way he cuffed Mickey a sound wallop across the mouth with the back of his hand. Mickey went sprawling across the room and crashed into the dresser from the force of the blow. Matches glared back at him. "That will teach you better than to do the dirty work for the cops. They ain't got nothin' on me. I should have caught on to your little act." And Matches climbed through the window and Mickey could hear his feet pounding down the fire escape.

Mickey scrambled to his feet and ran to the door. He turned the key and pulled the door open to admit Lieutenant Malone. The detective dashed to the window. He leaned out to watch Matches leap into a black car parked in the alley. There was the snarl of a starting motor and in a moment Matches Birken was wheeling the car out into the street. He vanished in a spurt of blue smoke from the exhaust.

Malone proceeded to search the limited contents of the room. He ransacked the dresser drawers, looked under the bed mattress and then opened the drawer in the scarred table. He pulled out a long white envelope addressed in a scrawling male hand. Then he extracted the sheet of paper inside. He whistled softly through pursed lips. "Anyhow, this proves that there is a tie-up between Dude Haney and Matches Birken. This is the original letter that the FBI sent us a copy of. And I still think that these bond numbers make a message in code."

"Code? You mean like spies use? I ain't never seen a spy code before. Can I look at it?"

"Sure, you can look at it. If it is a code, it's sure a honey! Our code experts can't break it down."

The kid looked at the six rows of figures and then he bowled Malone over by saying, "That's awfully easy. I can read that message myself. It says, NELSON WAREHOUSE TWELFTH."

Malone's eyes bulged. "You sure of that, kid?"

"Sure I'm sure.'

The detective raced for the phone outside. He dialed Headquarters and barked at the Inspector, "I've got the solution on that letter of Dude Haney's. Send a squad car to the Nelson Warehouse, pronto. I think Birken is headed there to set a fire. The code message said TWELFTH and today's the twelfth. Better send fire apparatus, too, just in case Birken works fast. Call me back here and tell me what happens."

He turned to Mickey. "Tell me how come you could read that code when all our experts been working on it for a week without a solution."

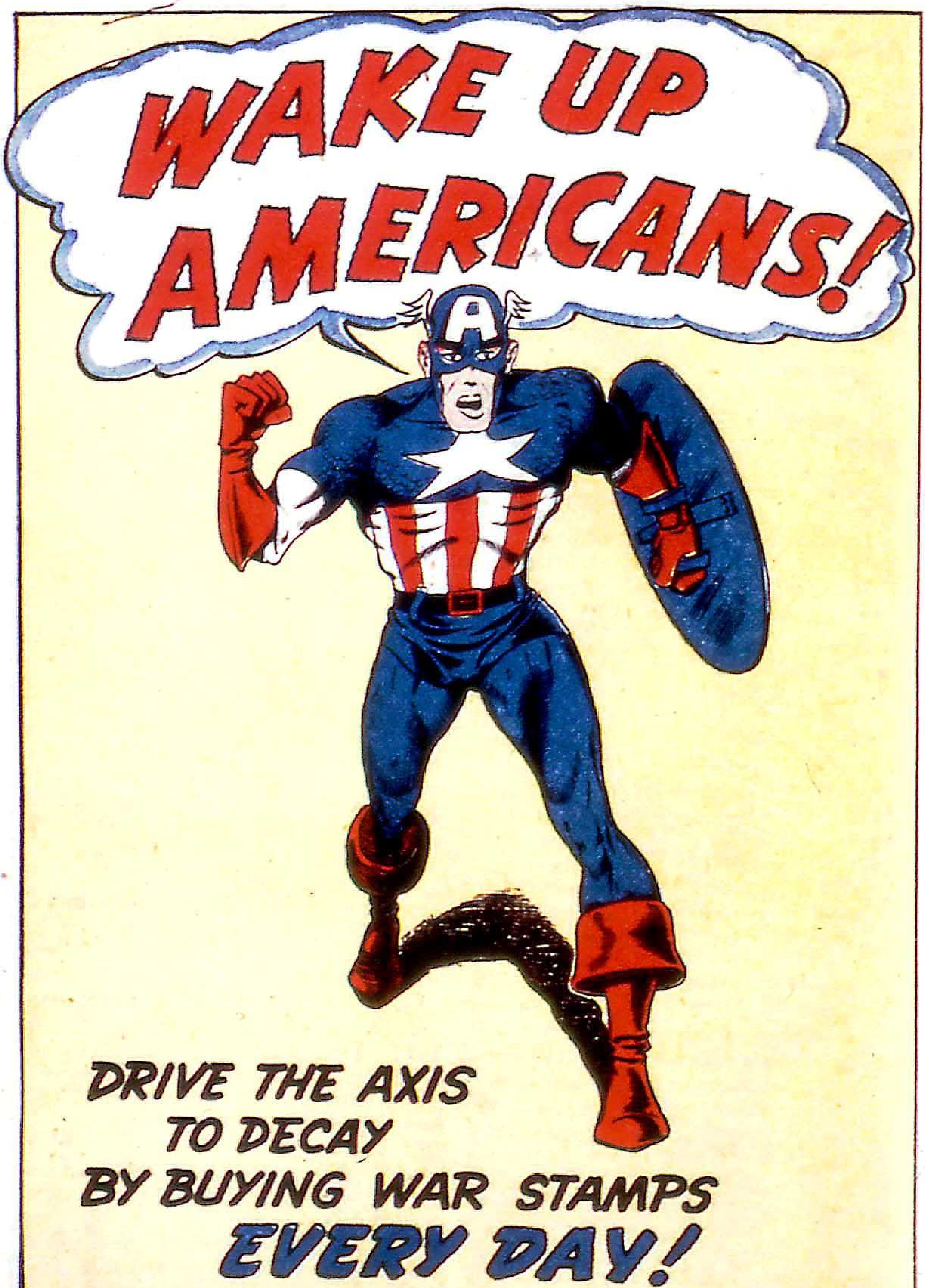
"In school our teacher played a game with us to teach us the typewriter keyboard. We played it with numbers. There's three rows of letters on a typewriter and every letter is given a number corresponding to its position in the first, second or third rows. For instance, N is the SIXTH letter in the bottom or third row so its number would be 63. E is the third letter in the first, or top row so its number would be 31. If you wanted to spell NELSON the code would be 63 31 92 22 91 63. And that's how this code was written, using Birken's typewriter, you'll find that the first two rows of figures spell NELSON, the second two rows spell WAREHOUSE and the last two rows spell TWELFTH."

The phone rang. Malone grabbed it. The inspector said, "We caught Birken redhanded at the warehouse. He'd started the fire but we put it out before it got headway. We found gasoline cans in Birken's car and we found him inside the warehouse and he squealed on the rest of the gang. You did a swell job, Malone. The department owes you a million thanks."

Malone said, "The thanks belong to a young friend of mine". And hung up.

The Lieutenant grinned at the kid. "I can figure how you were able to read that code so easy but what on earth made you tumble to the fact that the typewrier was the basis for the code?"

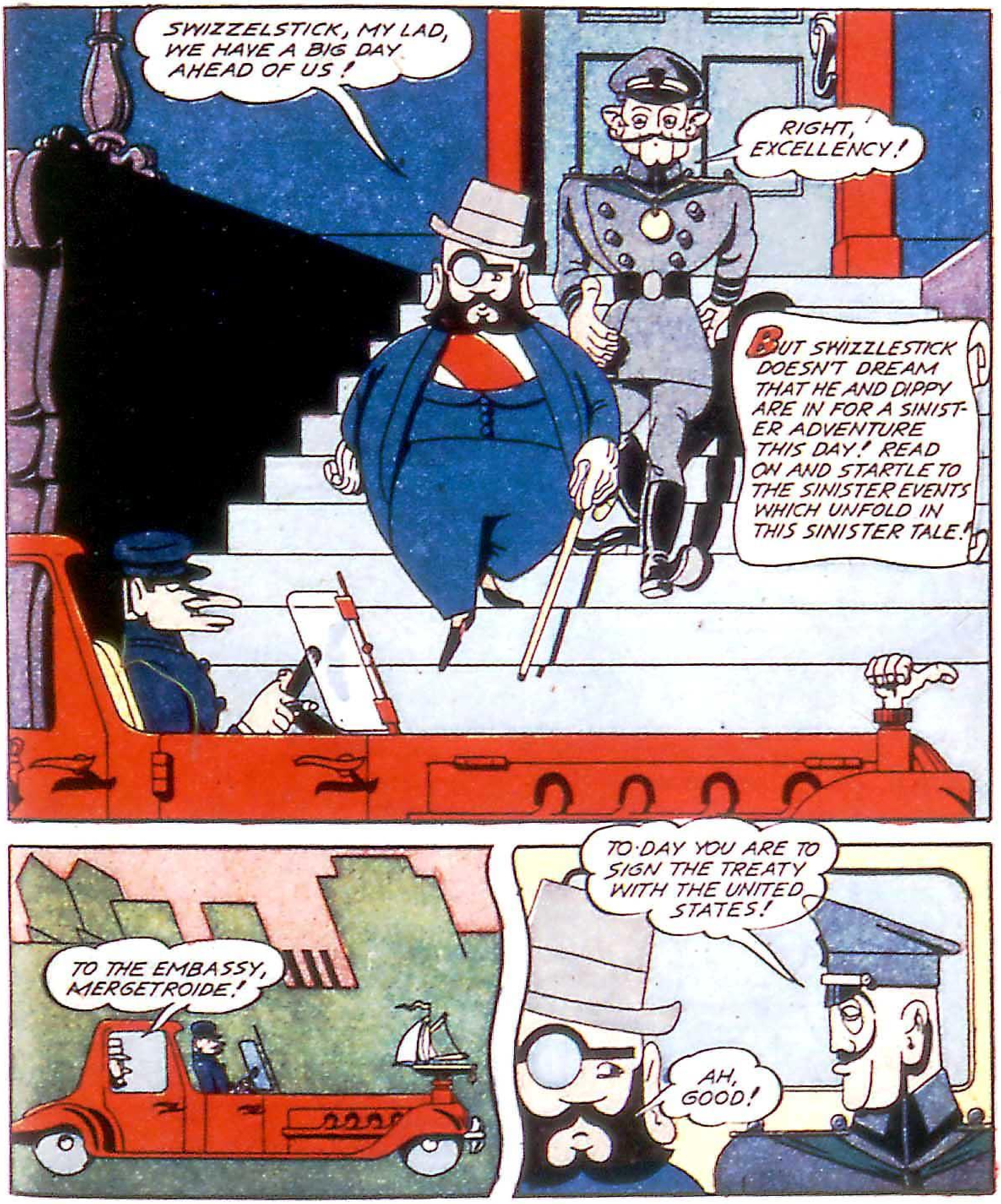
"Well, you searched the entire room, didn't you? Didn't you think it was funny that although Matches Birken had a typewriter there wasn't a single solitary sheet of paper in the whole room?"

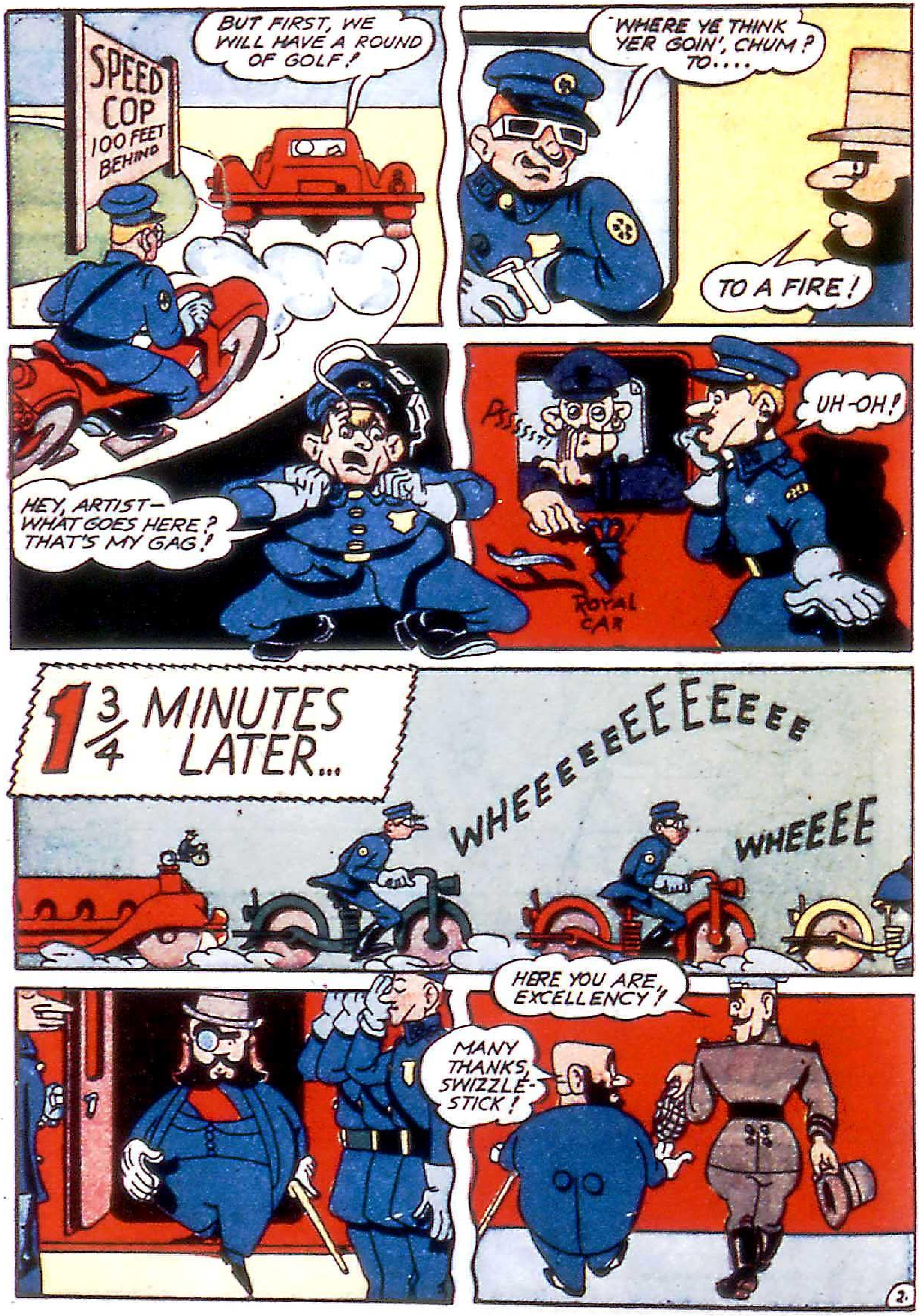

WAKE UP AMERICANS!
DRIVE THE AXIS
TO DECAY
BY BUYING WAR STAMPS
EVERY DAY!

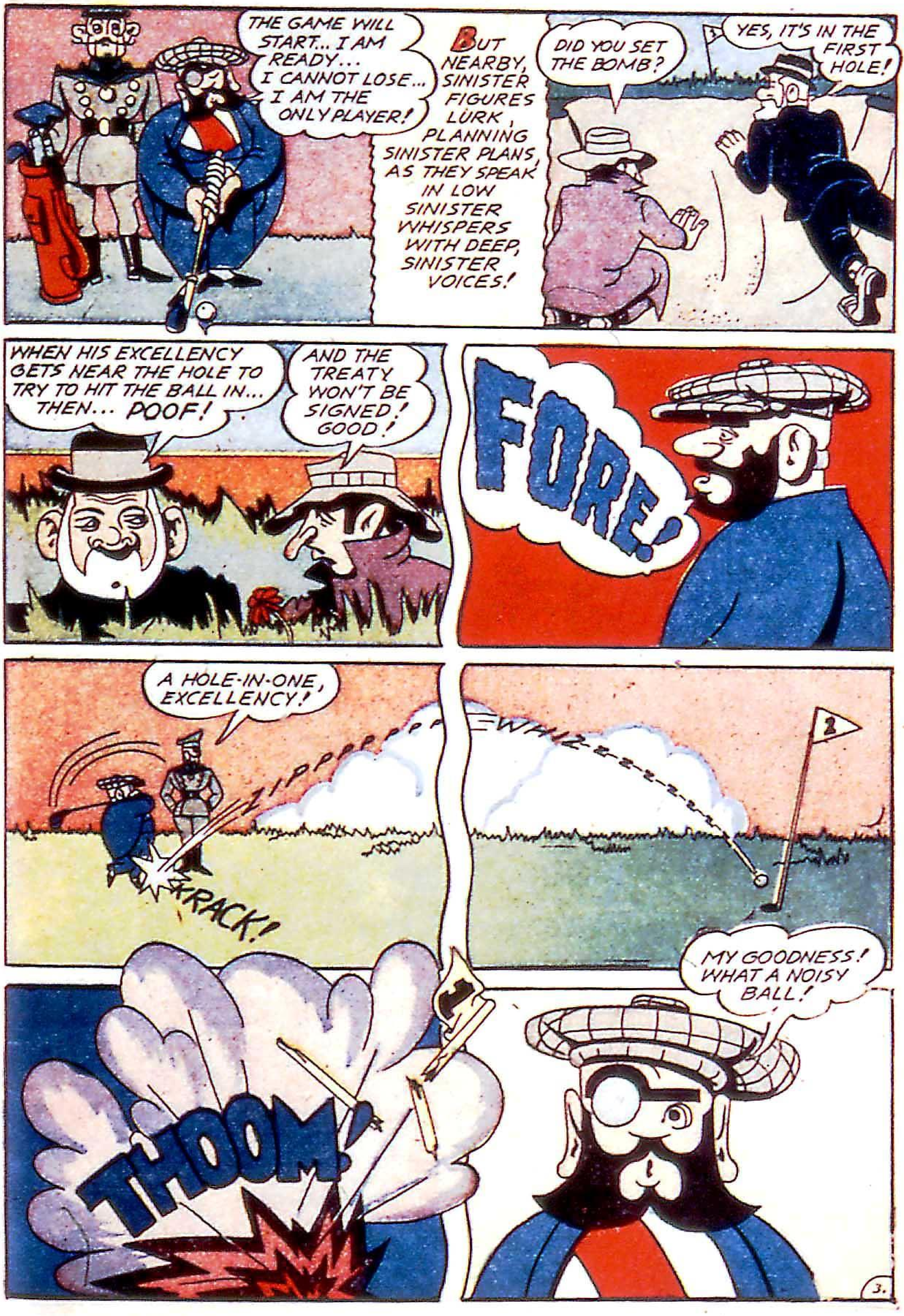
Martin Goodman, PUBLISHER

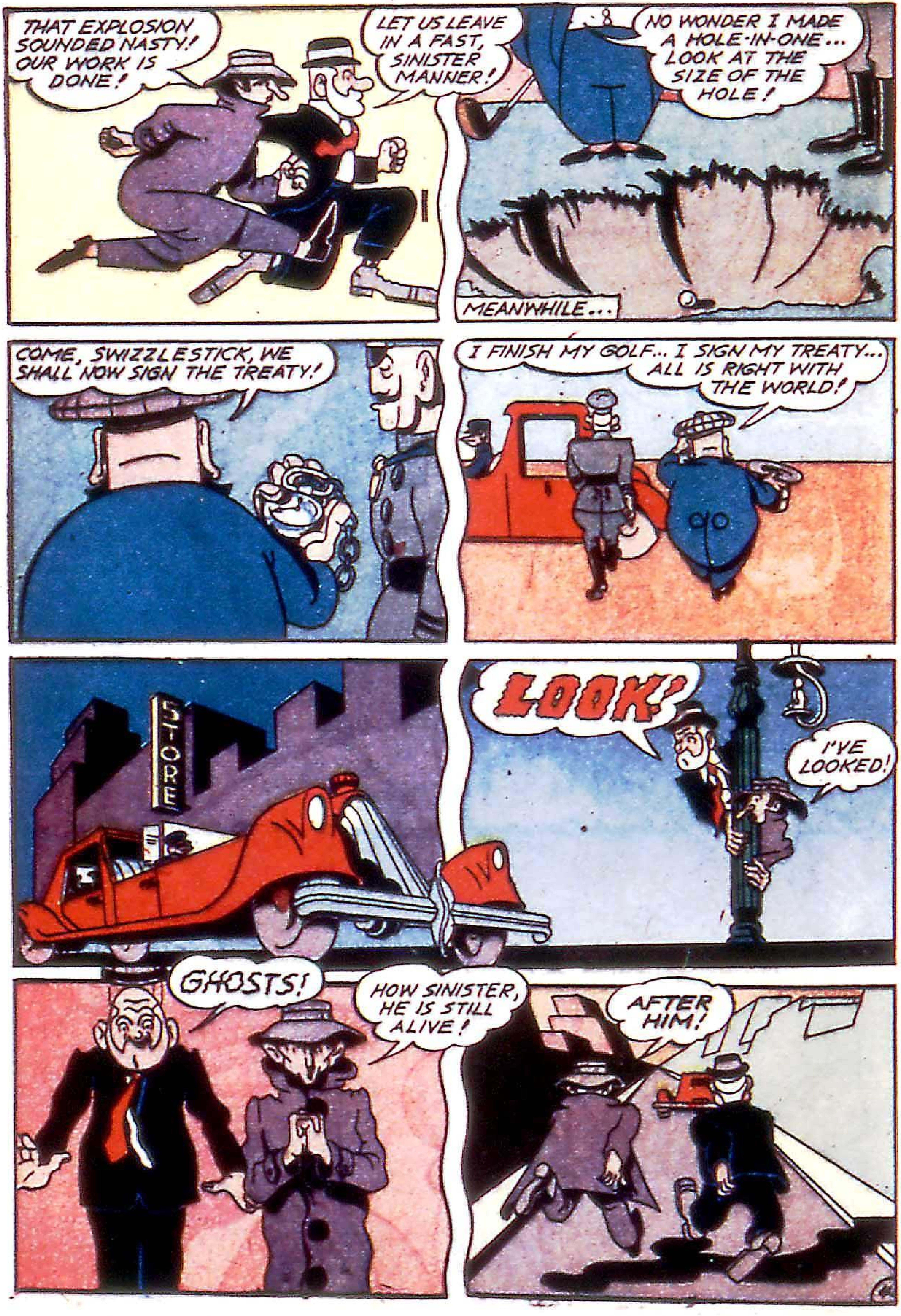
DIPPY DIPLOMAT

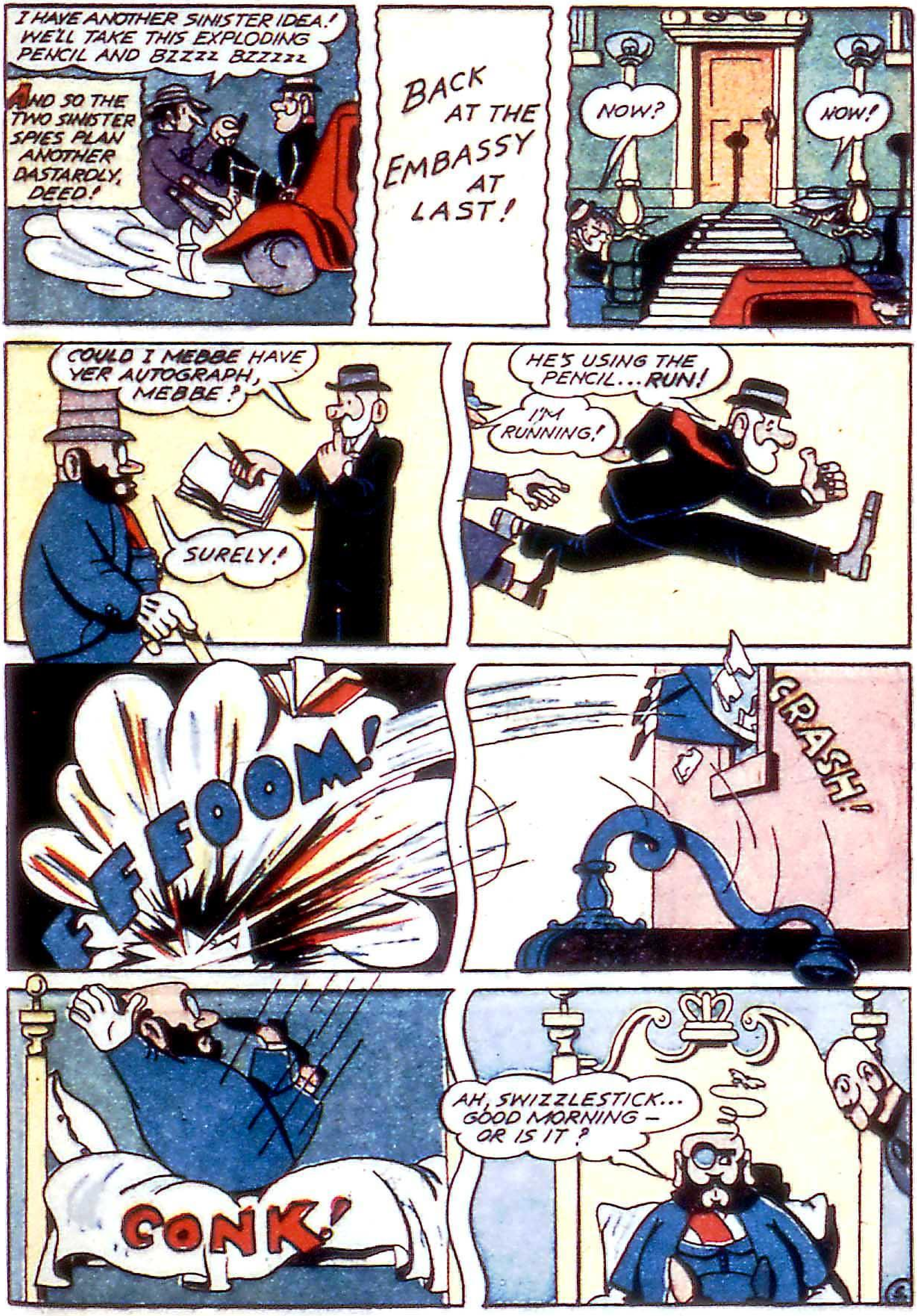
by Guy Blythe

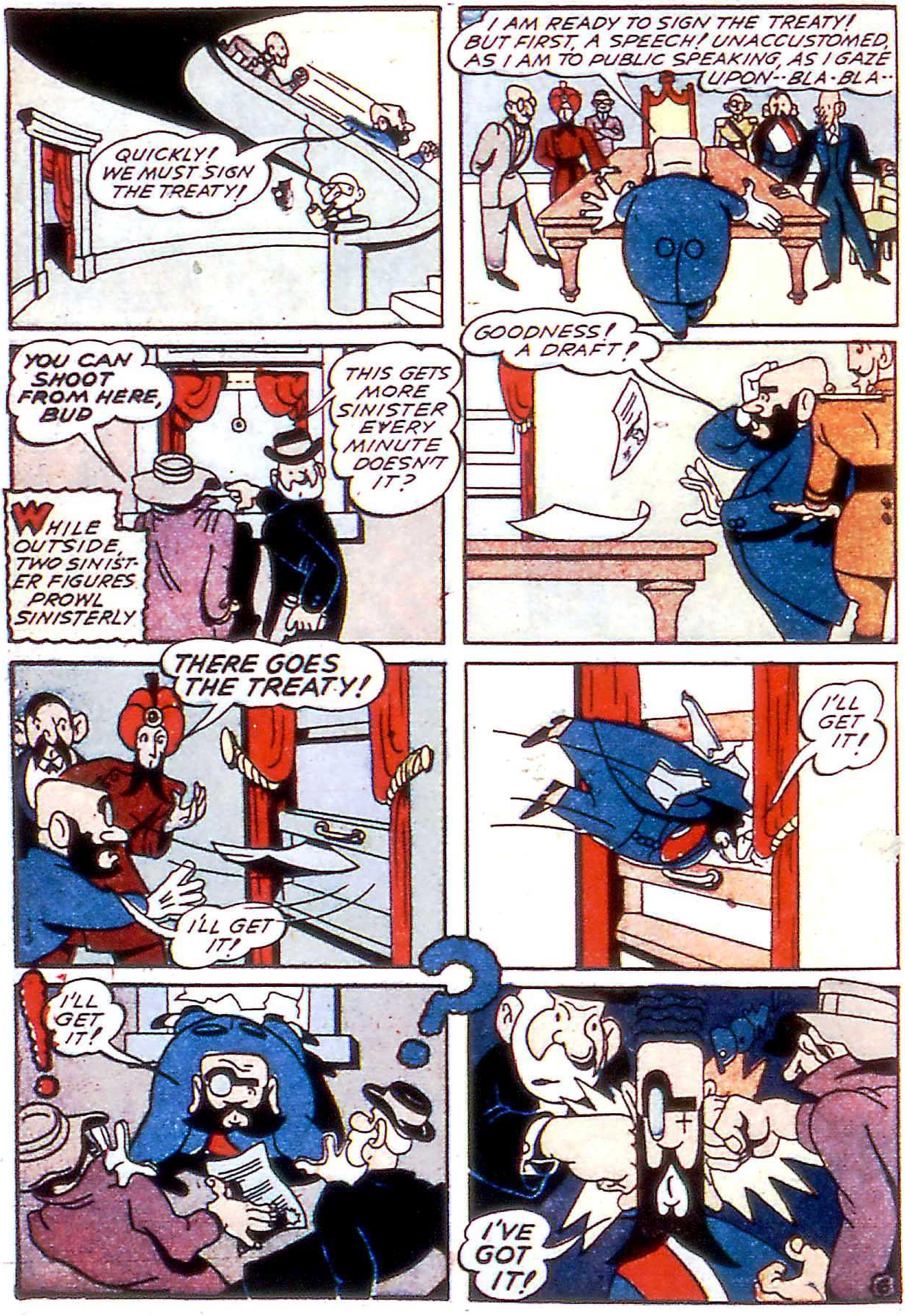

SWIZZELSTICK, MY LAD, WE HAVE A BIG DAY AHEAD OF US!
RIGHT, EXCELLENCY!
BUT SWIZZLESTICK DOESN'T DREAM THAT HE AND DIPPY ARE IN FOR A SINISTER ADVENTURE THIS DAY! READ ON AND STARTLE TO THE SINISTER EVENTS WHICH UNFOLD IN THIS SINISTER TALE!
TO THE EMBASSY, MERGETROIDE!
TO-DAY YOU ARE TO SIGN THE TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES!
AH, GOOD!

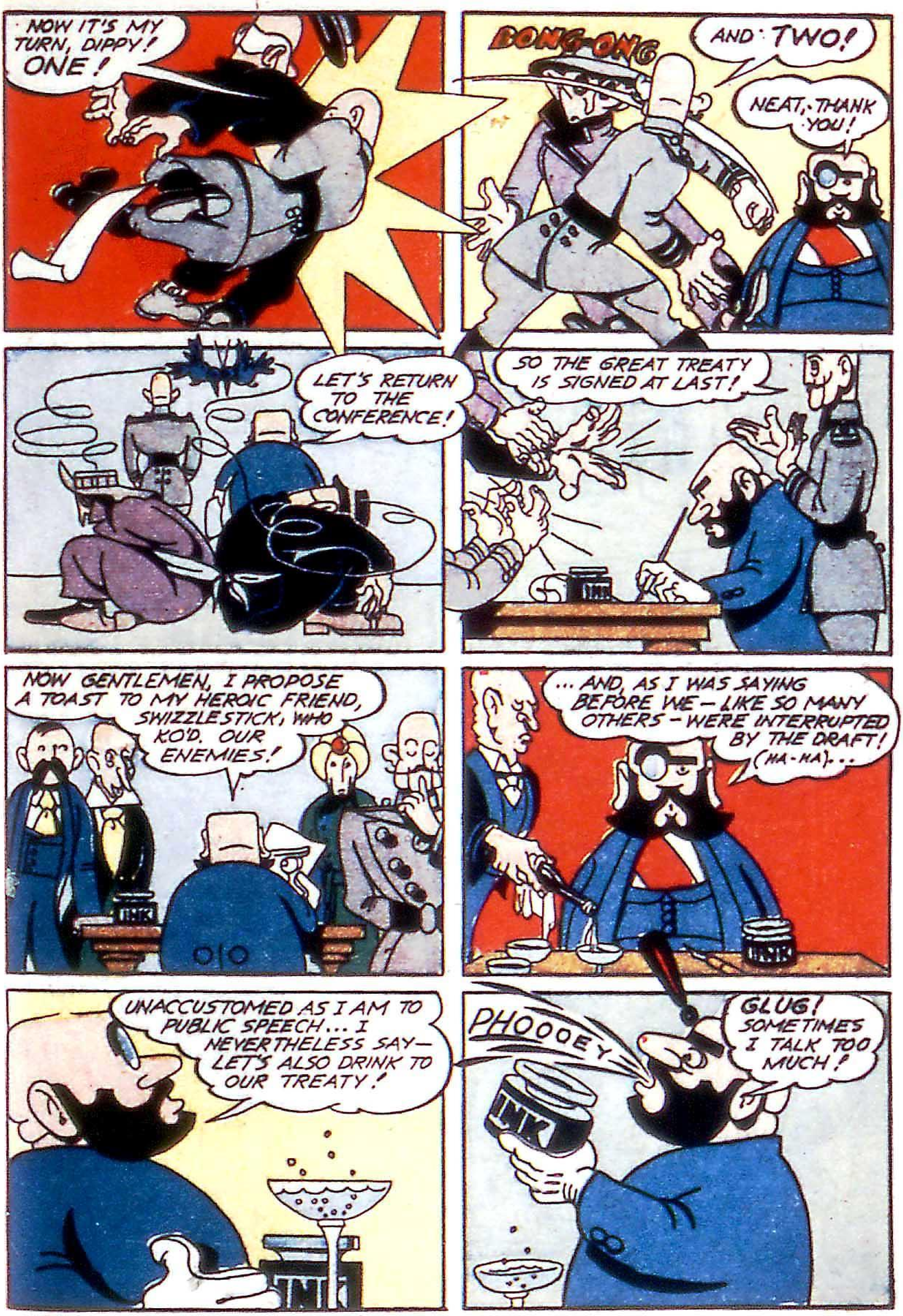

SPEED COP 100 FEET BEHIND
BUT FIRST, WE WILL HAVE A ROUND OF GOLF!
WHERE YE THINK YER GOIN', CHUM? TO....
TO A FIRE!
HEY, ARTIST— WHAT GOES HERE? THAT'S MY GAG!
PSSSSST!
UH-OH!
ROYAL CAR
1 3/4 MINUTES LATER...
WHEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
WHEEEEE
HERE YOU ARE, EXCELLENCY!
MANY THANKS, SWIZZLE-STICK!

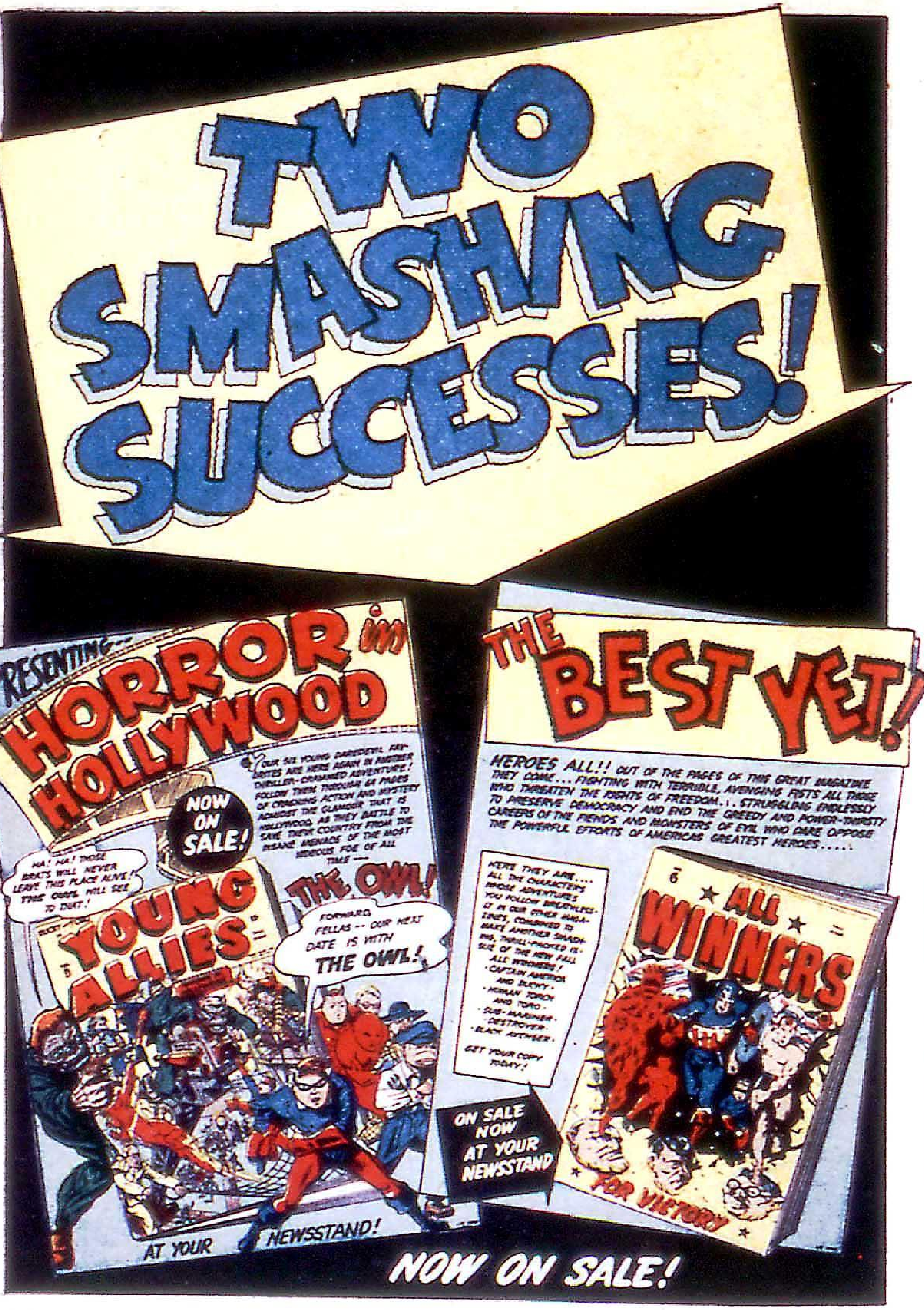

THE GAME WILL START... I AM READY... I CANNOT LOSE... I AM THE ONLY PLAYER!
BUT NEARBY, SINISTER FIGURES LURK, PLANNING SINISTER PLANS, AS THEY SPEAK IN LOW SINISTER WHISPERS WITH DEEP, SINISTER VOICES!
DID YOU SET THE BOMB?
YES, IT'S IN THE FIRST HOLE!
1
WHEN HIS EXCELLENCY GETS NEAR THE HOLE TO TRY TO HIT THE BALL IN... THEN... POOF!
AND THE TREATY WON'T BE SIGNED! GOOD!
FORE!
A HOLE-IN-ONE, EXCELLENCY!
ZIPPPPPPPPP
KRACK!
WHIZZZZZZZZ
2
THOOM!
1
MY GOODNESS! WHAT A NOISY BALL!
3.


THAT EXPLOSION SOUNDED NASTY! OUR WORK IS DONE!
LET US LEAVE IN A FAST, SINISTER MANNER!
NO WONDER I MADE A HOLE-IN-ONE... LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THE HOLE!
MEANWHILE...
COME, SWIZZLESTICK, WE SHALL NOW SIGN THE TREATY!
I FINISH MY GOLF... I SIGN MY TREATY... ALL IS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD!
STORE
LOOK!
I'VE LOOKED!
GHOSTS!
HOW SINISTER, HE IS STILL ALIVE!
AFTER HIM!


I HAVE ANOTHER SINISTER IDEA! WE'LL TAKE THIS EXPLODING PENCIL AND BZZZZ BZZZZZ
AND SO THE TWO SINISTER SPIES PLAN ANOTHER DASTARDLY DEED!
BACK AT THE EMBASSY AT LAST!
NOW?
NOW!
COULD I MEBBE HAVE YER AUTOGRAPH, MEBBE?
SURELY!
HE'S USING THE PENCIL... RUN!
I'M RUNNING!
FFOOM!
CRASH!
CONK!
AH, SWIZZLESTICK... GOOD MORNING — OR IS IT?
6


QUICKLY! WE MUST SIGN THE TREATY!
I AM READY TO SIGN THE TREATY! BUT FIRST, A SPEECH! UNACCUSTOMED, AS I AM TO PUBLIC SPEAKING, AS I GAZE UPON--BLA-BLA--
WHILE OUTSIDE, TWO SINISTER FIGURES PROWL SINISTERLY
YOU CAN SHOOT FROM HERE, BUD
THIS GETS MORE SINISTER EVERY MINUTE DOESN'T IT?
GOODNESS! A DRAFT!
THERE GOES THE TREATY!
I'LL GET IT!
I'LL GET IT!
I'LL GET IT!
I'VE GOT IT!


NOW IT'S MY TURN, DIPPY! ONE!
BONG-ONG
AND TWO!
NEAT, THANK YOU!
LET'S RETURN TO THE CONFERENCE!
SO THE GREAT TREATY IS SIGNED AT LAST!
INK
NOW GENTLEMEN, I PROPOSE A TOAST TO MY HEROIC FRIEND, SWIZZLESTICK, WHO K.O'D. OUR ENEMIES!
INK
... AND, AS I WAS SAYING BEFORE WE — LIKE SO MANY OTHERS — WERE INTERRUPTED BY THE DRAFT! (HA-HA)...
INK
UNACCUSTOMED AS I AM TO PUBLIC SPEECH ... I NEVERTHELESS SAY— LET'S ALSO DRINK TO OUR TREATY!
INK
PHOOOOEY
GLUG! SOMETIMES I TALK TOO MUCH!
INK


TWO SMASHING SUCCESSES!
PRESENTING...
HORROR in HOLLYWOOD
NOW ON SALE!
HA! HA! THOSE BRATS WILL NEVER LEAVE THIS PLACE ALIVE! THE OWL WILL SEE TO THAT!
YOUNG ALLIES
THE OWL!
FORWARD, FELLAS -- OUR NEXT DATE IS WITH THE OWL!
AT YOUR NEWSSTAND!
THE BEST YET!
ALL WINNERS
FOR VICTORY
ON SALE NOW AT YOUR NEWSSTAND
NOW ON SALE!

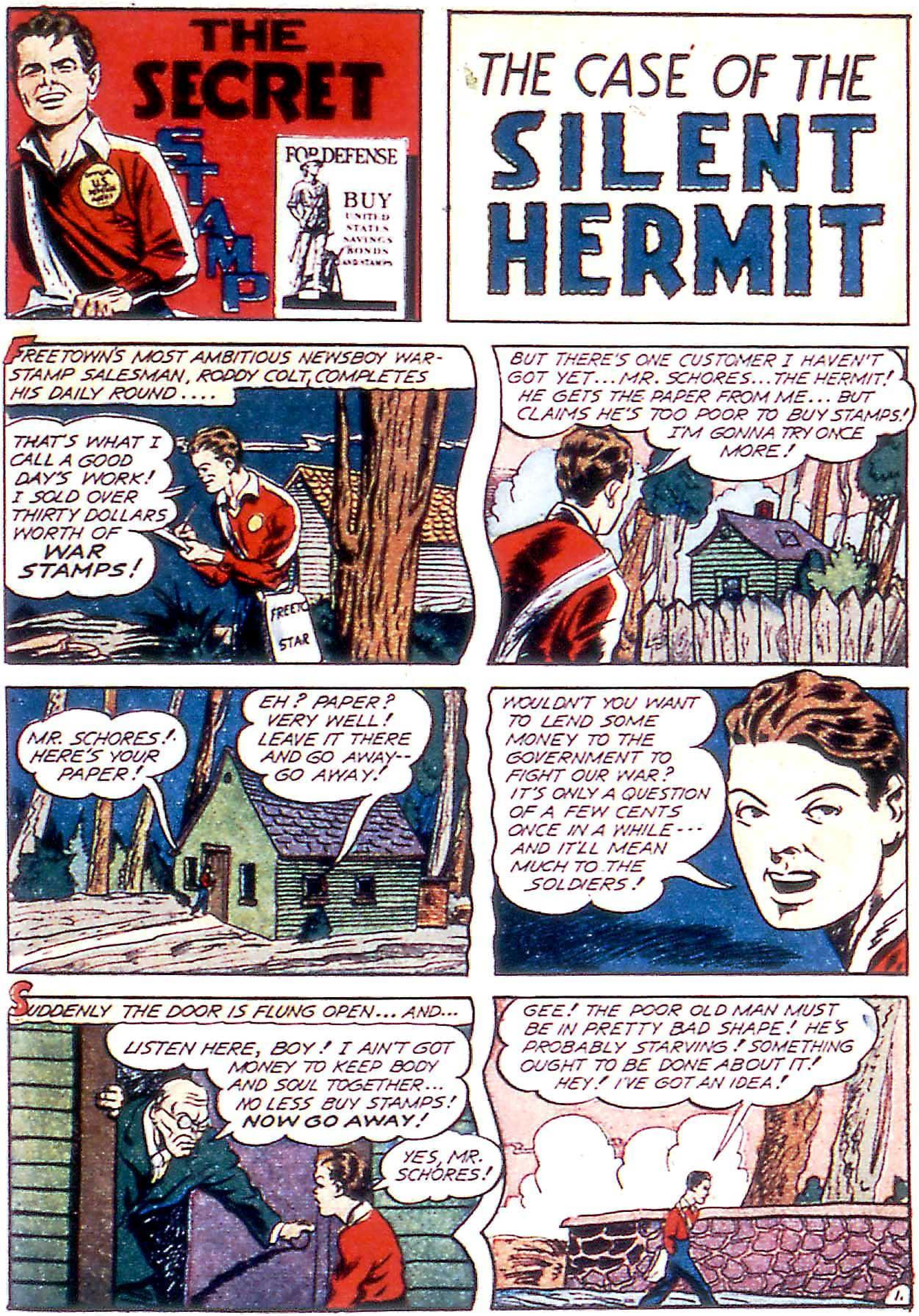
OUR SIX YOUNG DAREDEVIL FAVORITES ARE HERE AGAIN IN ANOTHER THRILLER-CRAMMED ADVENTURE! FOLLOW THEM THROUGH 64 PAGES OF CRACKING ACTION AND MYSTERY AGAINST THE GLAMOUR THAT IS HOLLYWOOD, AS THEY BATTLE TO SAVE THEIR COUNTRY FROM THE INSANE MENACE OF THE MOST HIDEOUS FOE OF ALL TIME —

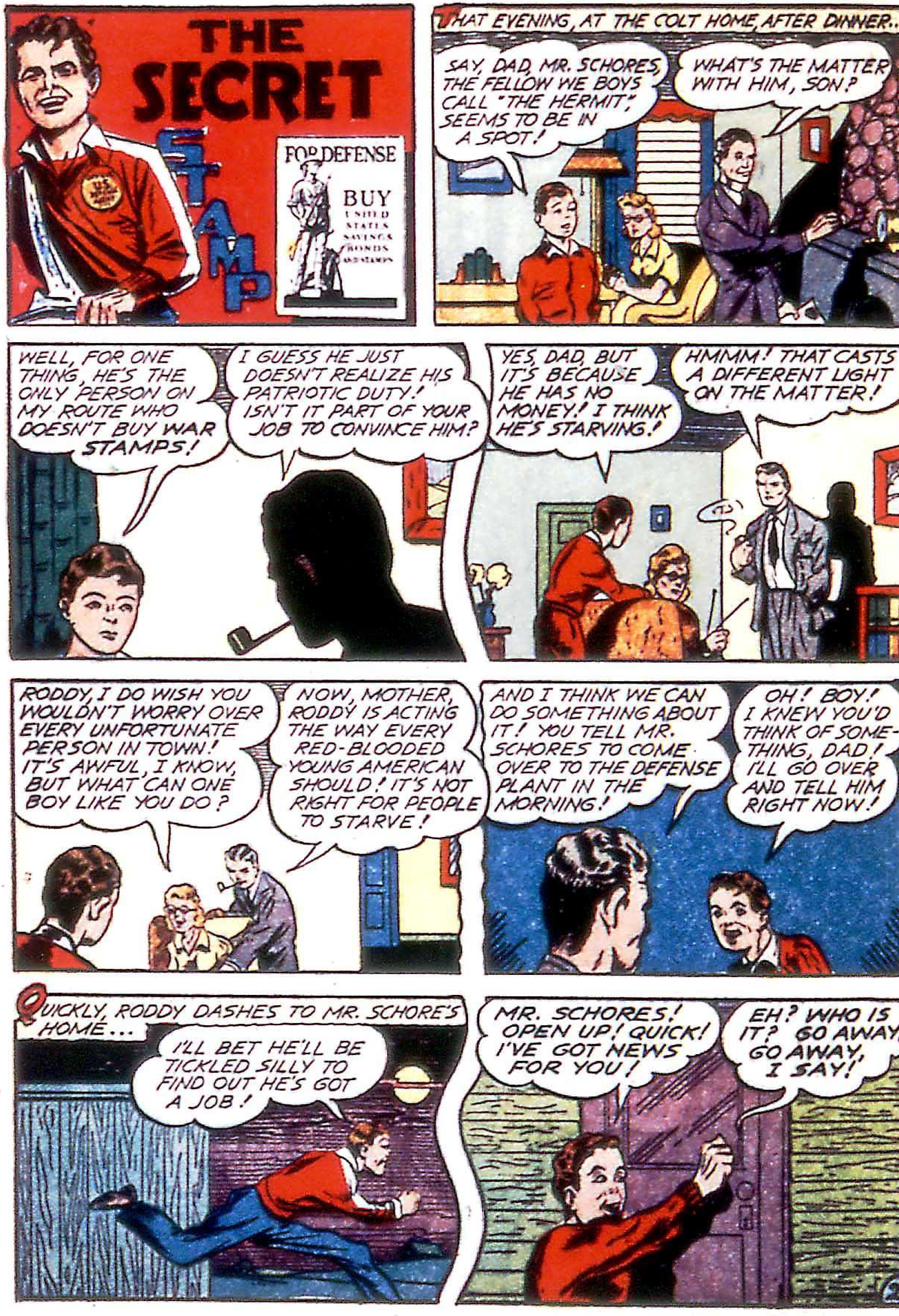
HEROES ALL!! OUT OF THE PAGES OF THIS GREAT MAGAZINE THEY COME... FIGHTING WITH TERRIBLE, AVENGING FISTS ALL THOSE WHO THREATEN THE RIGHTS OF FREEDOM.!.. STRUGGLING ENDLESSLY TO PRESERVE DEMOCRACY AND END THE GREEDY AND POWER-THIRSTY CAREERS OF THE FIENDS AND MONSTERS OF EVIL WHO DARE OPPOSE THE POWERFUL EFFORTS OF AMERICAS GREATEST HEROES.....

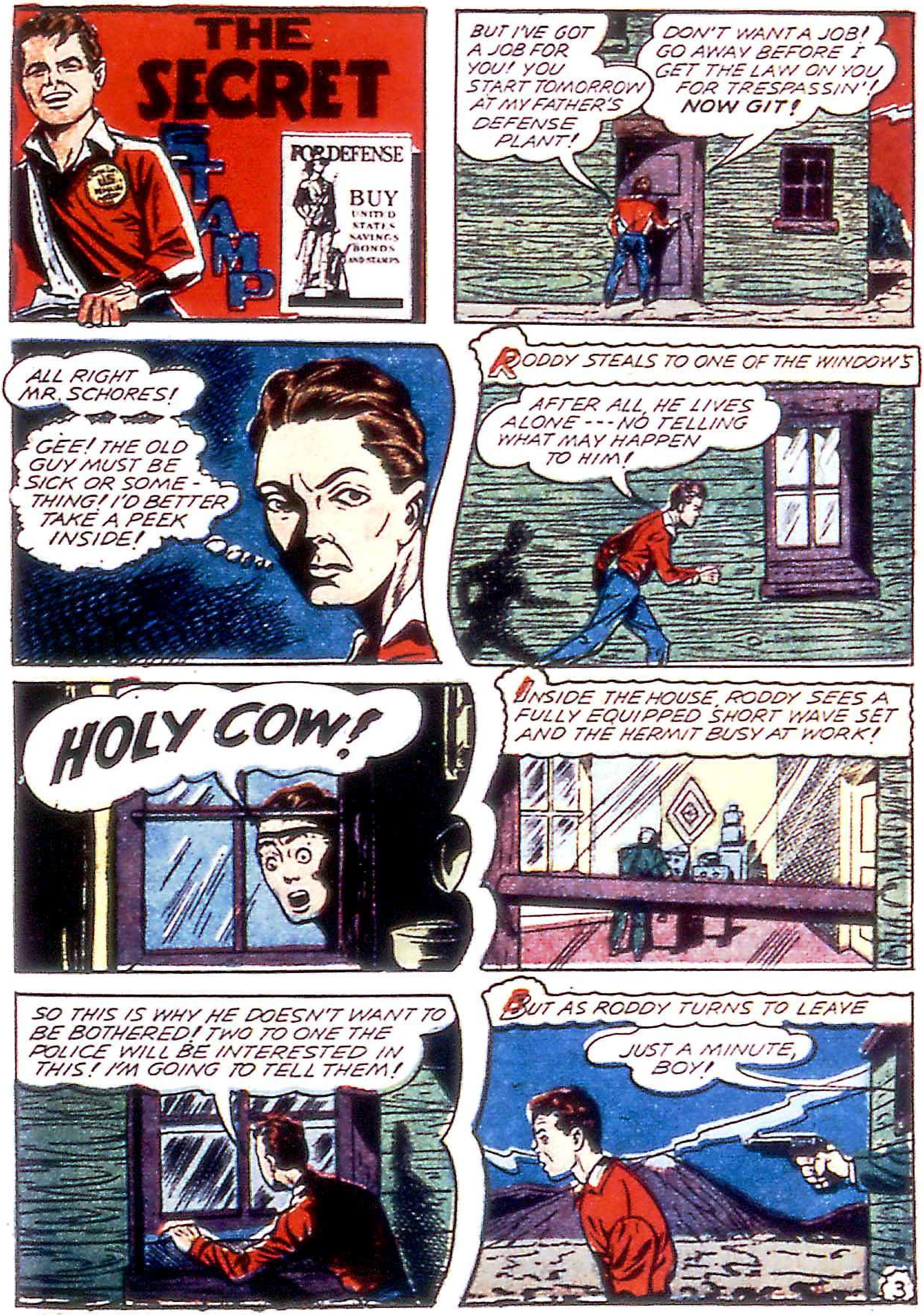
HERE THEY ARE.... ALL THE CHARACTERS WHOSE ADVENTURES YOU FOLLOW BREATHLESSLY IN OUR OTHER MAGAZINES, COMBINED TO MAKE ANOTHER SMASHING, THRILL-PACKED ISSUE OF THE NEW FALL ALL WINNERS!

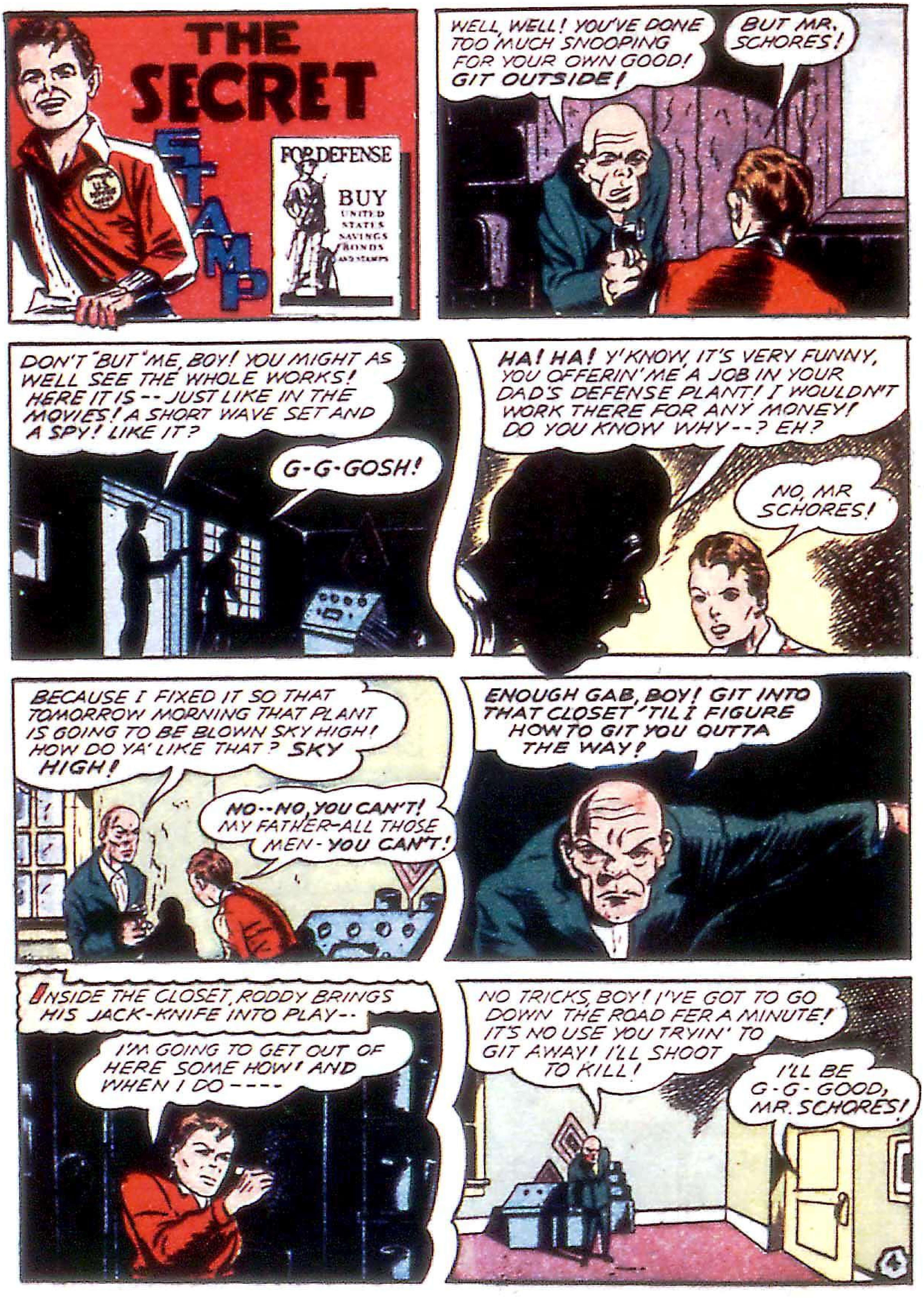
·CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY·
·HUMAN TORCH AND TORO·
·SUB-MARINER·
·DESTROYER·
·BLACK AVENGER·

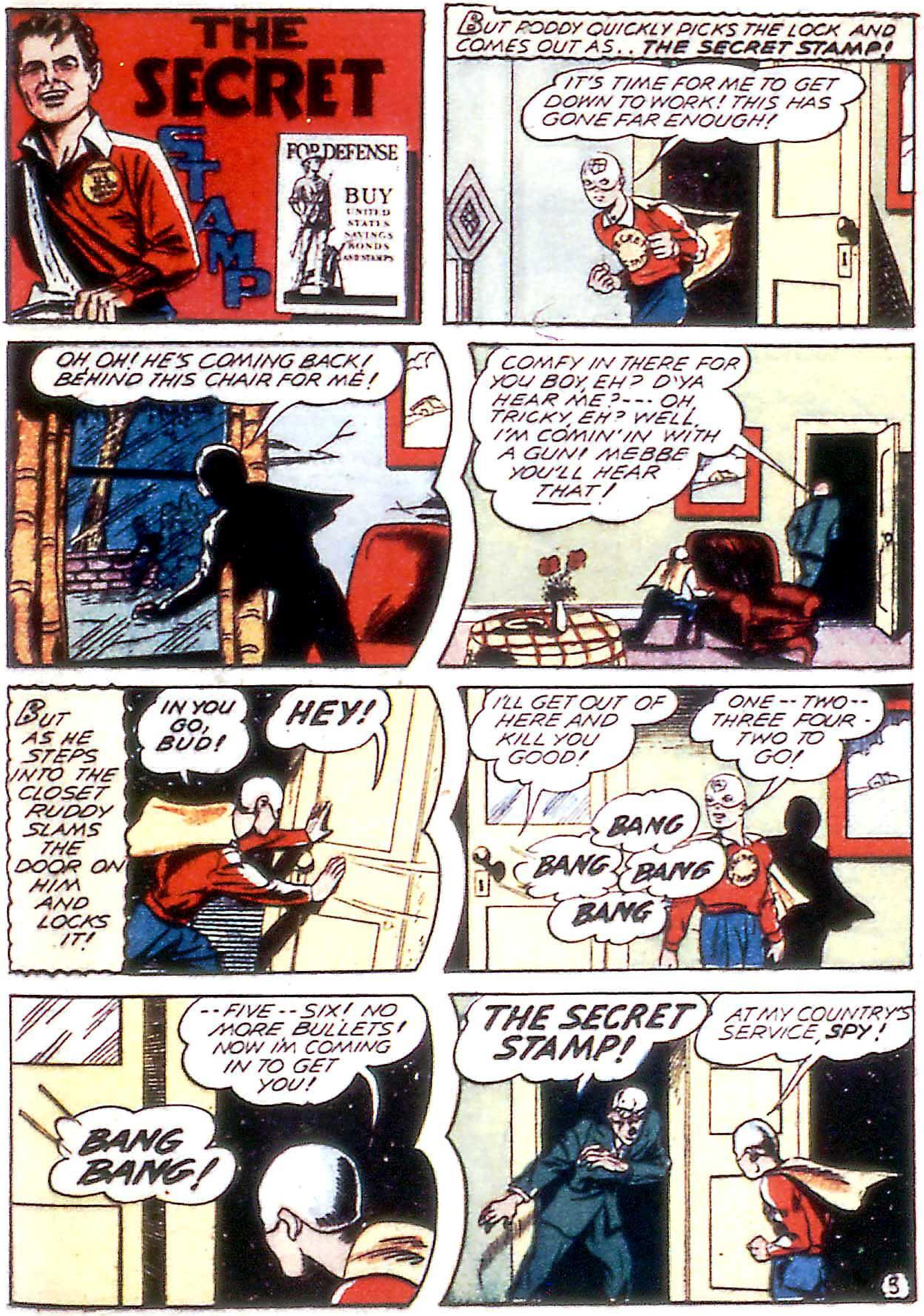
GET YOUR COPY TODAY!

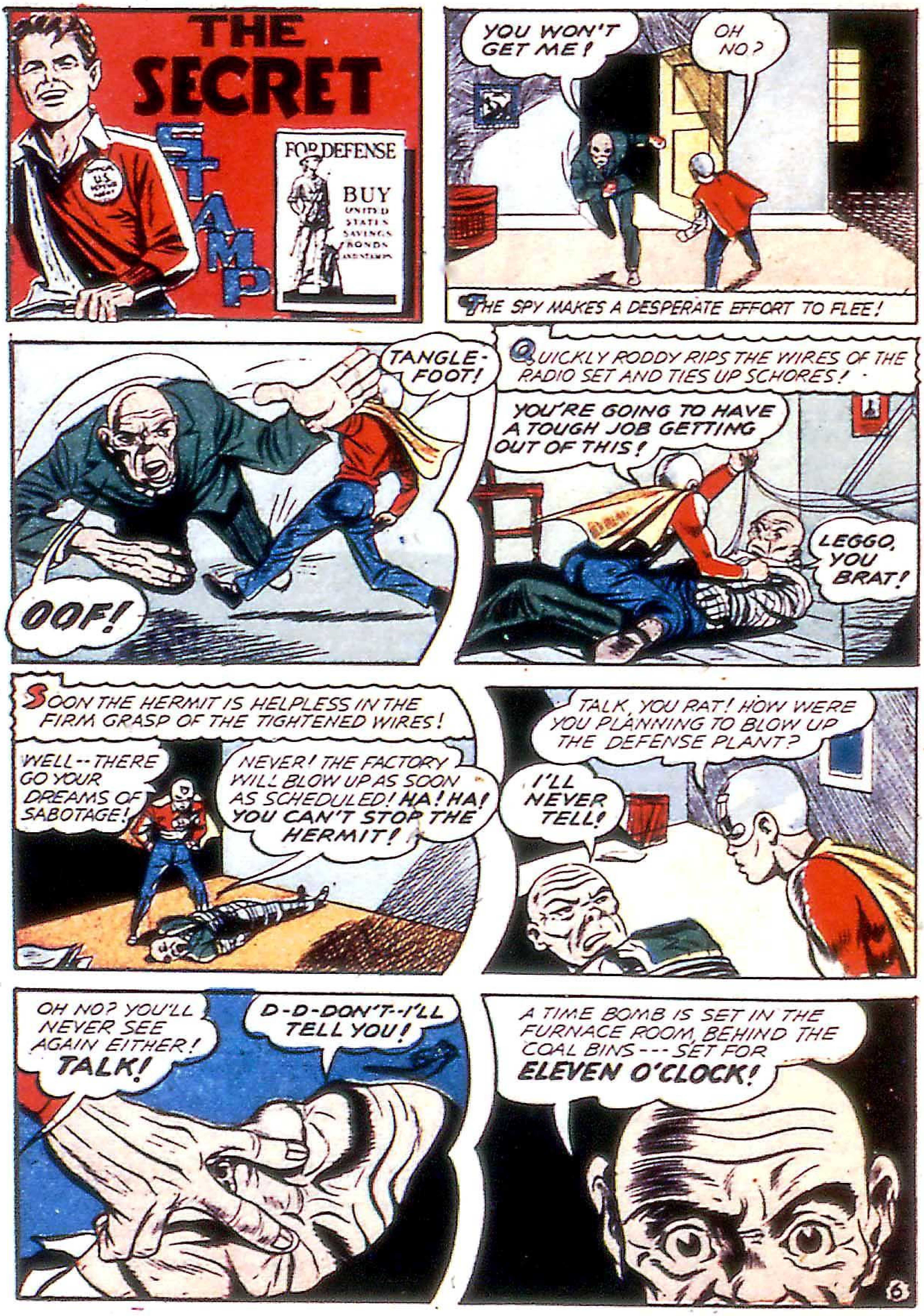

THE SECRET STAMP
U.S.
FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
THE CASE OF THE SILENT HERMIT
FREETOWN'S MOST AMBITIOUS NEWSBOY WAR-STAMP SALESMAN, RODDY COLT, COMPLETES HIS DAILY ROUND....
THAT'S WHAT I CALL A GOOD DAY'S WORK! I SOLD OVER THIRTY DOLLARS WORTH OF WAR STAMPS!
FREETO STAR
BUT THERE'S ONE CUSTOMER I HAVEN'T GOT YET... MR. SCHORES... THE HERMIT! HE GETS THE PAPER FROM ME... BUT CLAIMS HE'S TOO POOR TO BUY STAMPS! I'M GONNA TRY ONCE MORE!
MR. SCHORES! HERE'S YOUR PAPER!
EH? PAPER? VERY WELL! LEAVE IT THERE AND GO AWAY-- GO AWAY!
WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO LEND SOME MONEY TO THE GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT OUR WAR? IT'S ONLY A QUESTION OF A FEW CENTS ONCE IN A WHILE--- AND IT'LL MEAN MUCH TO THE SOLDIERS!
SUDDENLY THE DOOR IS FLUNG OPEN... AND...
LISTEN HERE, BOY! I AIN'T GOT MONEY TO KEEP BODY AND SOUL TOGETHER... NO LESS BUY STAMPS! NOW GO AWAY!
YES, MR. SCHORES!
GEE! THE POOR OLD MAN MUST BE IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE! HE'S PROBABLY STARVING! SOMETHING OUGHT TO BE DONE ABOUT IT! HEY! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

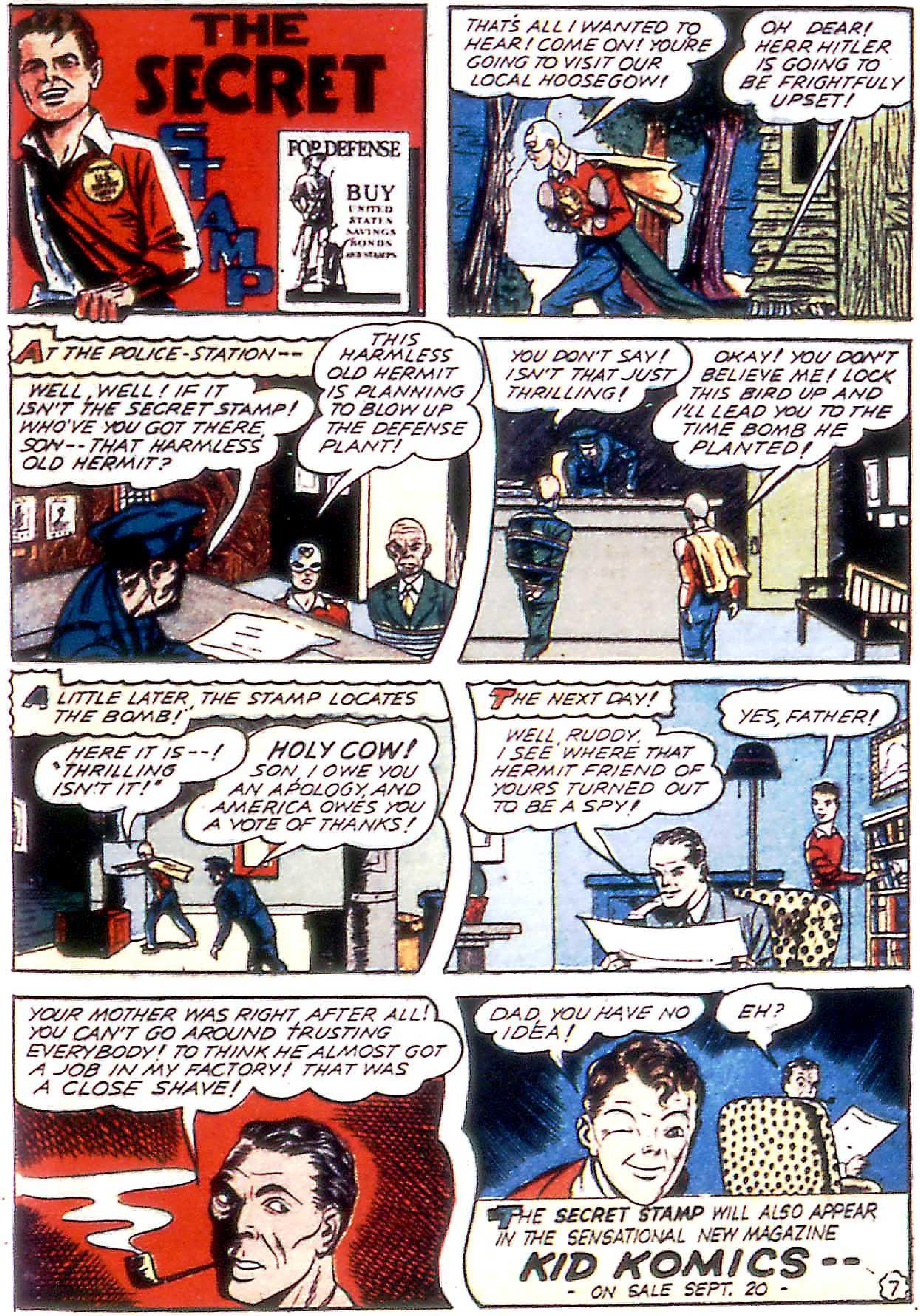

THE SECRET STAMP
FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
U.S.
THAT EVENING, AT THE COLT HOME, AFTER DINNER...
SAY, DAD, MR. SCHORES, THE FELLOW WE BOYS CALL "THE HERMIT," SEEMS TO BE IN A SPOT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM, SON?
WELL, FOR ONE THING, HE'S THE ONLY PERSON ON MY ROUTE WHO DOESN'T BUY WAR STAMPS!
I GUESS HE JUST DOESN'T REALIZE HIS PATRIOTIC DUTY! ISN'T IT PART OF YOUR JOB TO CONVINCE HIM?
YES, DAD, BUT IT'S BECAUSE HE HAS NO MONEY! I THINK HE'S STARVING!
HMMM! THAT CASTS A DIFFERENT LIGHT ON THE MATTER!
RODDY, I DO WISH YOU WOULDN'T WORRY OVER EVERY UNFORTUNATE PERSON IN TOWN! IT'S AWFUL, I KNOW, BUT WHAT CAN ONE BOY LIKE YOU DO?
NOW, MOTHER, RODDY IS ACTING THE WAY EVERY RED-BLOODED YOUNG AMERICAN SHOULD! IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR PEOPLE TO STARVE!
AND I THINK WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT! YOU TELL MR. SCHORES TO COME OVER TO THE DEFENSE PLANT IN THE MORNING!
OH! BOY! I KNEW YOU'D THINK OF SOMETHING, DAD! I'LL GO OVER AND TELL HIM RIGHT NOW!
QUICKLY, RODDY DASHES TO MR. SCHORE'S HOME...
I'LL BET HE'LL BE TICKLED SILLY TO FIND OUT HE'S GOT A JOB!
MR. SCHORES! OPEN UP! QUICK! I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU!
EH? WHO IS IT? GO AWAY! GO AWAY, I SAY!
2


THE SECRET STAMP
FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
BUT I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU! YOU START TOMORROW AT MY FATHER'S DEFENSE PLANT!
DON'T WANT A JOB! GO AWAY BEFORE I GET THE LAW ON YOU FOR TRESPASSIN'! NOW GIT!
ALL RIGHT MR. SCHORES!
GEE! THE OLD GUY MUST BE SICK OR SOME-THING! I'D BETTER TAKE A PEEK INSIDE!
RODDY STEALS TO ONE OF THE WINDOW'S
AFTER ALL, HE LIVES ALONE --- NO TELLING WHAT MAY HAPPEN TO HIM!
HOLY COW!
INSIDE THE HOUSE, RODDY SEES A FULLY EQUIPPED SHORT WAVE SET AND THE HERMIT BUSY AT WORK!
SO THIS IS WHY HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE BOTHERED! TWO TO ONE THE POLICE WILL BE INTERESTED IN THIS! I'M GOING TO TELL THEM!
BUT AS RODDY TURNS TO LEAVE
JUST A MINUTE, BOY!


THE SECRET STAMP
FOR DEFENSE BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
WELL, WELL! YOU'VE DONE TOO MUCH SNOOPING FOR YOUR OWN GOOD! GIT OUTSIDE!
BUT MR. SCHORES!
DON'T "BUT" ME, BOY! YOU MIGHT AS WELL SEE THE WHOLE WORKS! HERE IT IS -- JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIES! A SHORT WAVE SET AND A SPY! LIKE IT?
G-G-GOSH!
HA! HA! Y'KNOW, IT'S VERY FUNNY, YOU OFFERIN' ME A JOB IN YOUR DAD'S DEFENSE PLANT! I WOULDN'T WORK THERE FOR ANY MONEY! DO YOU KNOW WHY--? EH?
NO, MR SCHORES!
BECAUSE I FIXED IT SO THAT TOMORROW MORNING THAT PLANT IS GOING TO BE BLOWN SKY HIGH! HOW DO YA' LIKE THAT? SKY HIGH!
NO--NO, YOU CAN'T! MY FATHER-ALL THOSE MEN- YOU CAN'T!
ENOUGH GAB, BOY! GIT INTO THAT CLOSET 'TIL I FIGURE HOW TO GIT YOU OUTTA THE WAY!
INSIDE THE CLOSET, RODDY BRINGS HIS JACK-KNIFE INTO PLAY--
I'M GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE SOME HOW! AND WHEN I DO ----
NO TRICKS, BOY! I'VE GOT TO GO DOWN THE ROAD FER A MINUTE! IT'S NO USE YOU TRYIN' TO GIT AWAY! I'LL SHOOT TO KILL!
I'LL BE G-G-GOOD, MR. SCHORES!
4


THE SECRET STAMP
FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
BUT RODDY QUICKLY PICKS THE LOCK AND COMES OUT AS.. THE SECRET STAMP!
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET DOWN TO WORK! THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH!
OH OH! HE'S COMING BACK! BEHIND THIS CHAIR FOR ME!
COMFY IN THERE FOR YOU BOY, EH? D'YA HEAR ME?--- OH, TRICKY, EH? WELL, I'M COMIN' IN WITH A GUN! MEBBE YOU'LL HEAR THAT!
BUT AS HE STEPS INTO THE CLOSET RUDDY SLAMS THE DOOR ON HIM AND LOCKS IT!
IN YOU GO, BUD!
HEY!
I'LL GET OUT OF HERE AND KILL YOU GOOD!
ONE -- TWO -- THREE FOUR - TWO TO GO!
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
--FIVE--SIX! NO MORE BULLETS! NOW I'M COMING IN TO GET YOU!
BANG BANG!
THE SECRET STAMP!
AT MY COUNTRY'S SERVICE, SPY!


THE SECRET STAMP
FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
U.S.
YOU WON'T GET ME!
OH NO?
THE SPY MAKES A DESPERATE EFFORT TO FLEE!
TANGLE-FOOT!
OOF!
QUICKLY RODDY RIPS THE WIRES OF THE RADIO SET AND TIES UP SCHORES!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A TOUGH JOB GETTING OUT OF THIS!
LEGGO, YOU BRAT!
SOON THE HERMIT IS HELPLESS IN THE FIRM GRASP OF THE TIGHTENED WIRES!
WELL--THERE GO YOUR DREAMS OF SABOTAGE!
NEVER! THE FACTORY WILL BLOW UP AS SOON AS SCHEDULED! HA! HA! YOU CAN'T STOP THE HERMIT!
TALK, YOU RAT! HOW WERE YOU PLANNING TO BLOW UP THE DEFENSE PLANT?
I'LL NEVER TELL!
OH NO? YOU'LL NEVER SEE AGAIN EITHER! TALK!
D-D-DON'T--I'LL TELL YOU!
A TIME BOMB IS SET IN THE FURNACE ROOM BEHIND THE COAL BINS---SET FOR ELEVEN O'CLOCK!


THE SECRET STAMP
FOR DEFENSE BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO HEAR! COME ON! YOU'RE GOING TO VISIT OUR LOCAL HOOSEGOW!
OH DEAR! HERR HITLER IS GOING TO BE FRIGHTFULY UPSET!
AT THE POLICE-STATION--
WELL, WELL! IF IT ISN'T THE SECRET STAMP! WHO'VE YOU GOT THERE, SON--THAT HARMLESS OLD HERMIT?
THIS HARMLESS OLD HERMIT IS PLANNING TO BLOW UP THE DEFENSE PLANT!
YOU DON'T SAY! ISN'T THAT JUST THRILLING!
OKAY! YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME! LOCK THIS BIRD UP AND I'LL LEAD YOU TO THE TIME BOMB HE PLANTED!
A LITTLE LATER, THE STAMP LOCATES THE BOMB!
"HERE IT IS--! 'THRILLING ISN'T IT!'"
HOLY COW! SON, I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY, AND AMERICA OWES YOU A VOTE OF THANKS!
THE NEXT DAY!
WELL, RUDDY, I SEE WHERE THAT HERMIT FRIEND OF YOURS TURNED OUT TO BE A SPY!
YES, FATHER!
YOUR MOTHER WAS RIGHT, AFTER ALL! YOU CAN'T GO AROUND TRUSTING EVERYBODY! TO THINK HE ALMOST GOT A JOB IN MY FACTORY! THAT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE!
DAD, YOU HAVE NO IDEA!
EH?
THE SECRET STAMP WILL ALSO APPEAR IN THE SENSATIONAL NEW MAGAZINE
KID KOMICS--
- ON SALE SEPT. 20 -

SENTINELS OF LIBERTY
SECRET CLUB NEWS

CAP SAYS:

Hi, Pals! I guess you boys and girls have been waiting impatiently to learn the results of the big contest featured in Captain America Comics No. 18. Well, here they are, and I sure hope your name is among the lucky winners! Crisp, new one dollar bills will be mailed to the 50 lucky boys and girls whose names appear below. We'll have another contest soon, and those of you who failed to win this time will have another chance at the prizes. So long until next month'

BUCKY SAYS:

Hello, everybody! Boy, oh, boy! I'm as thrilled about the results of the contest Cap mentioned as you are! Cap and I sure got a kick out of your letters, and are glad to hear that you like the magazine so much. So don't forget, we always like to hear what you think about the magazine, so don't fail to write if you have any suggestions to offer. I'll be seein' you in next month's issue, which you won't want to be missing, because it's chock full of action and adventure! So long.

FIFTY WINNERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA PICTURE CONTEST

1. C. LIONEL HUYETT, Leola, Pa.
2. NASH CANDELARIA, 1247 West 59th St., Los Angeles, Calif.
3. DONALD SYKES, 528 South 16th St., Newark, N. J.
4. VICTOR LEIBOWITZ, 901 East 179th St., Bronx, N. Y.
5. LOIS C. LARSEN, P. O. Box 52, Cutter, Montana
6. ALEXANDER TOTH, JR., 1056 Lexington Ave., New York City
7. JOAN JACOBS, c/o Overlook Hotel, Ferndale, N. Y.
8. FERN DELP, Route No. 4, Lafayette, Ind.
9. HOWARD A. LOGAN, 19 Ledge Court, New Britain, Conn.
10. BILLY SHEUMAKE, 605 4th St. N. W., Childress, Texas
11. ROGER KARSHNER, 1503 S. Center Blvd., Springfield, Ohio
12. GARY BARTUMIOLI, 114-52 180th St., St. Albans, N. Y.
13. GARRETT CROSSAN, 79 Lynmouth Road, Malverne, New York
14. BOBBY THOMPSON, 6211 Keniston Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.
15. BILLY DOUGLAS, 1340 Laurel Ave., Bowling Green, Ky.
16. GEORGE NANGE, 5408 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
17. VINCENT BRUNONE, 182 Bushwick Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
18. BILLY WHITLOW, Federal Bakery, Forsyth St., Jacksonville, Fla.
19. DONALD RICE, 705 W. 9th St., Joplin, Mo.
20. FRANK W. BRAZINSKI, 147 Pine St., Elizabeth, N. J.
21. CHARLES PANSE, 274 Bonner Pl., New York, N. Y.
22. JERRY THOMAS, R. F. D. No. 2, Independence, Kansas
23. PHILIP NEUGEBAUER, R. F. D. 3, Manchester, N. H.
24. RICHARD QUANEY, 1545 Ellis St., Wichita, Kansas
25. CHARLES FREED, R. F. D., Hellertown, Pa.
26. ROBERT BREER, 717 East St., Mitchell, S. D.
27. FRED KEARMAN, 1975 Gildersleeve Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
28. LESTER ANNINGSON, JR., 220 Harvard St., Medford, Mass.
29. RICHARD MORALES, 927½ S. Herbert St., Los Angeles, Calif.
30. BARBARA HARTER, 118 Harvard Ave., Rockville Center, N. Y.
31. RALPH EVANS, Route 2, Box 28, Oklahoma City, Okla.
32. TERRY LUSSOS, 1080 75th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
33. CHARLES HOUER, Crane Route 2, Missouri
34. LILLIAN MARSHALL, Route 7, Box 5025, Sacramento, Calif.
35. RICHARD ADAMS, 7125 Passaic St., Huntington Park, Calif.
36. JIM MORAN, 1019 Poplar St., Huntington, Ind.
37. KURT SAFFIR, 2255 Highland Ave., Detroit, Michigan
38. MYRTIS SLADE, 608 Grant St. S. E., Atlanta, Georgia
39. PAUL BROWNING, Majestic, Ky.
40. BOBBY SCHROCK, 1567 Locust Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
41. JAMES WAYLAND, 14 Sherman Ave., Du Bois, Penn.
42. ARTHUR POLLICK, 244 W. 16th St., New York City
43. ROBERT LEFTRIDGE, 133½ Gore St., Clarksburg, W. Va.
44. WALTER GREENE, 2070 Mars Ave., Lakewood, Ohio
45. ELLIOT HAWKINS, Wildercliff, Rhinecliff, N. Y.
46. LESTER KISSEL, 303 E. 5th Ave., York, Penn.
47. STAGER HOLCOMB, Route 2, Bellevue, Wis.
48. JEAN D. LA CLAIRE, 15 Whitney St., Norwood, N. Y.
49. EDDIE KENNEDY, JR., 1331 N. Taylor St., St. Louis, Mo.
50. RICHARD LEWIS BUG, JR., Fields Landing, Fields Landing, Cal.

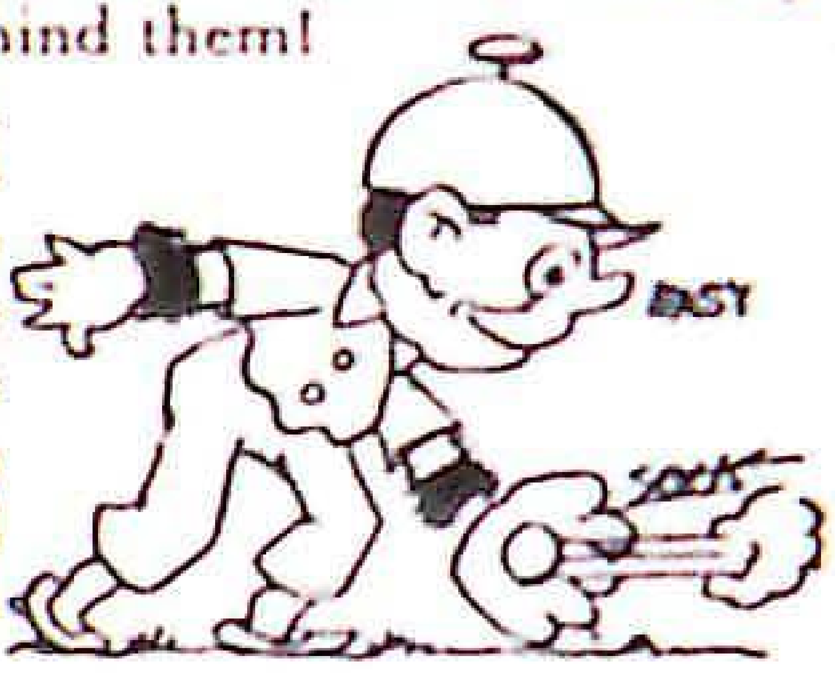
FINGERPRINT CHART
so you better come across or else-

G-MAN OUTFIT

Boys—Earn These Prizes and Make Money, Too!

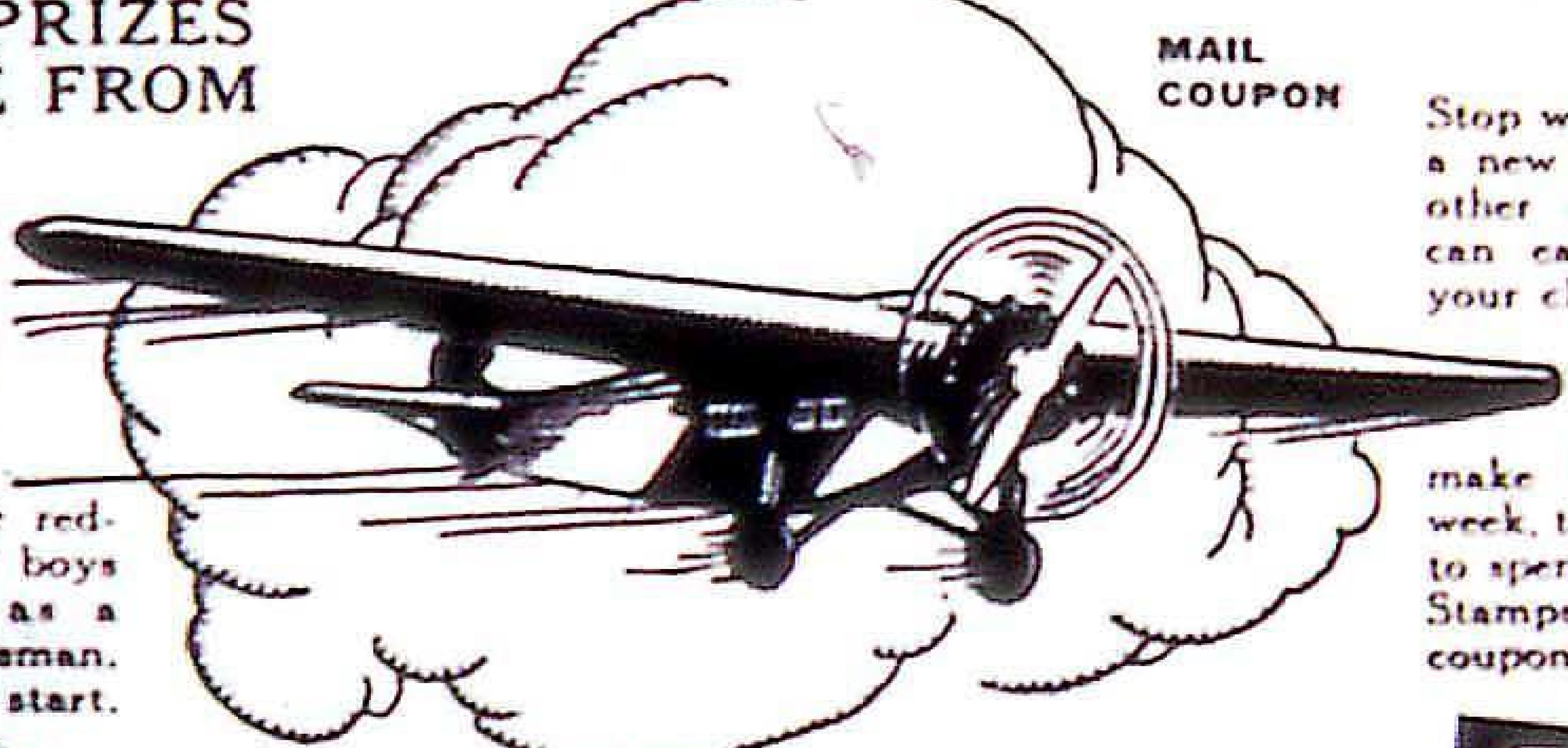
Now with everyone excited about the courageous work of the G-Men, imagine how thrilled you'll be to have a fingerprint set of your own. Boy, how amazed your chums will be when you can identify them by fingerprints which they've carelessly left behind them!

Earn a fingerprint set, a powerful microscope, printing press, movie machine, athletic equipment, magic book—or any of the 200 other dandy prizes shown in our prize book. Make MONEY, too. Money for a bank account or to buy U. S. War Stamps. All these things will come to you as a successful Crowell Junior Salesman. Start today. Mail coupon.



OVER 200 PRIZES TO CHOOSE FROM

Make flying models of Army and Navy planes. Read thrilling books of air adventures. Collect latest issues of airplane stamps. All these big treats for red-blooded air-minded boys can be YOURS as a Crowell Junior Salesman. Read below how to start.



Stop wishing for a new football, a new big-league baseball, and other sports equipment. You can earn what you want—or your choice of camping, fishing, or hiking equipment, by becoming a Crowell Junior Salesman. You can make CASH PROFITS each week, too—so you'll have money to spend and to buy U. S. War Stamps. To start, mail the coupon.

Become an Ace Magician

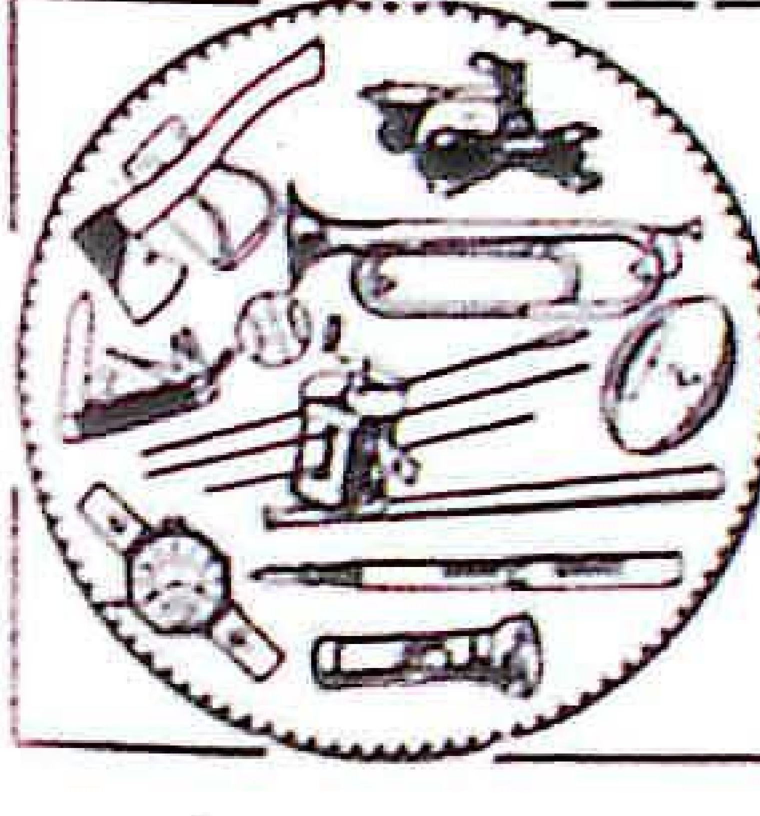
YOU CAN START AT ONCE

Don't wait. Begin earning the prizes you want, and begin piling up cash profits right away. It's easy! It's fun! All you need to do is deliver Collier's magazine (one of the most popular weeklies in America) to regular customers whom you obtain in your neighborhood.

You can do this during a part of your spare time and it need not interfere with school or other activities. Many boys earn their first prize in an hour or two. You ought to be able to do the same. To get off to a zooming start right away, mail the coupon printed below.

This Movie and Film can be YOURS

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY!



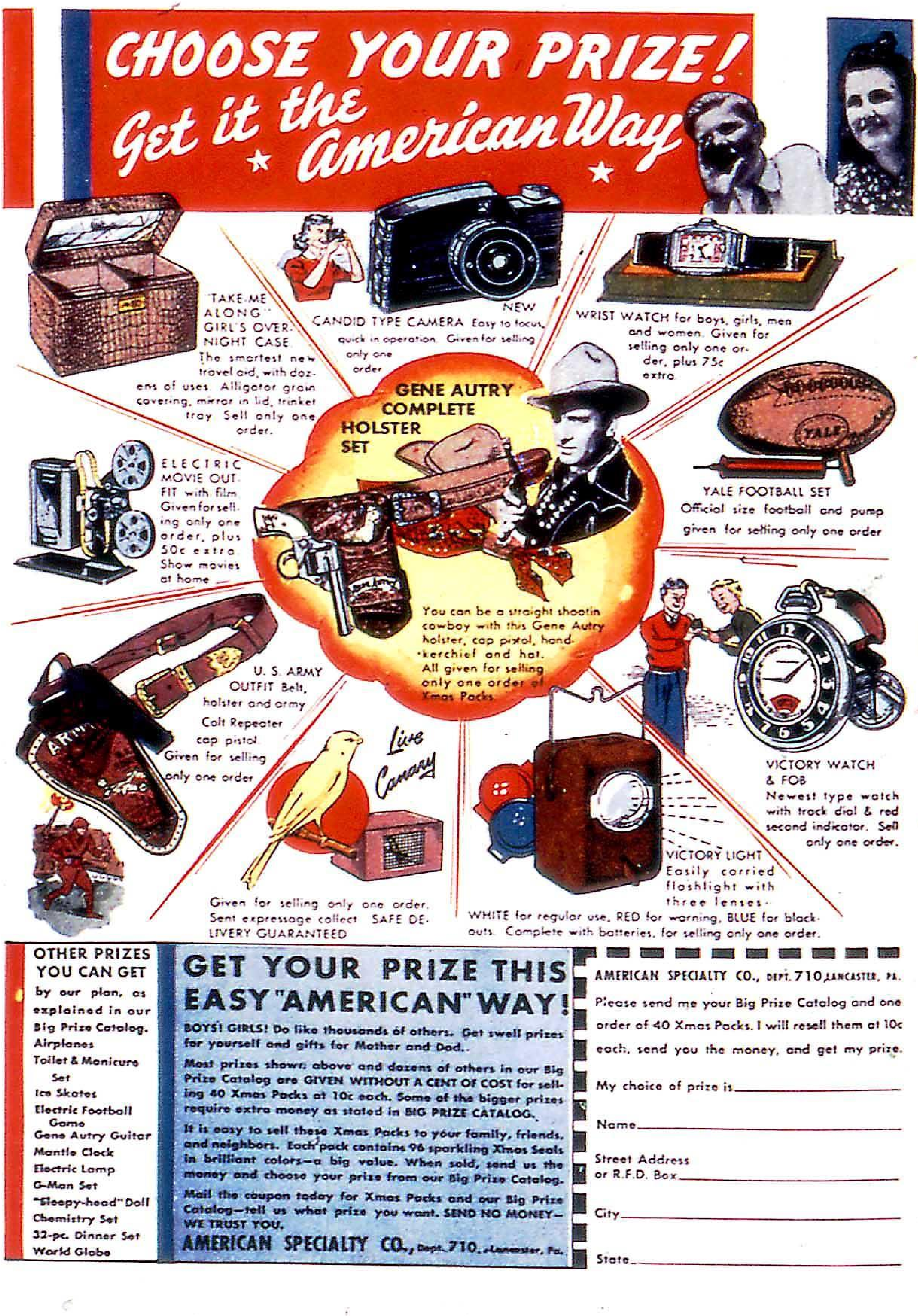
Mr. Jim Thayer, Dept. 958
The Crowell-Collier Publishing Co.
Springfield, Ohio

Dear Jim: Sure I want to claim some of your wonderful prizes and make my own spending money. Send me your PRIZE BOOK showing 200 prizes boys can earn, and help me get off to a flying start.

Name..Address..

City...State..................................Your Age

CHOOSE YOUR PRIZE! Get it the American Way



"TAKE-ME ALONG" GIRL'S OVER-NIGHT CASE The smartest new travel aid, with dozens of uses. Alligator grain covering, mirror in lid, trinket tray. Sell only one order.

NEW CANDID TYPE CAMERA Easy to focus, quick in operation. Given for selling only one order

WRIST WATCH for boys, girls, men and women. Given for selling only one order, plus 75c extra.

GENE AUTRY COMPLETE HOLSTER SET

You can be a straight shootin cowboy with this Gene Autry holster, cap pistol, handkerchief and hat. All given for selling only one order of Xmas Packs.

ELECTRIC MOVIE OUTFIT with film. Given for selling only one order, plus 50c extra. Show movies at home

YALE FOOTBALL SET Official size football and pump given for selling only one order

U. S. ARMY OUTFIT Belt, holster and army Colt Repeater cap pistol. Given for selling only one order

Live Canary

Given for selling only one order. Sent expressage collect. SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED

VICTORY WATCH & FOB Newest type watch with track dial & red second indicator. Sell only one order.

VICTORY LIGHT Easily carried flashlight with three lenses—WHITE for regular use, RED for warning, BLUE for black-outs. Complete with batteries, for selling only one order.

OTHER PRIZES YOU CAN GET

by our plan, as explained in our Big Prize Catalog.

- Airplanes
- Toilet & Manicure Set
- Ice Skates
- Electric Football Game
- Gene Autry Guitar
- Mantle Clock
- Electric Lamp
- G-Man Set
- "Sleepy-head" Doll
- Chemistry Set
- 32-pc. Dinner Set
- World Globe

GET YOUR PRIZE THIS EASY "AMERICAN" WAY!

BOYS! GIRLS! Do like thousands of others. Get swell prizes for yourself and gifts for Mother and Dad.

Most prizes shown above and dozens of others in our Big Prize Catalog are GIVEN WITHOUT A CENT OF COST for selling 40 Xmas Packs at 10c each. Some of the bigger prizes require extra money as stated in BIG PRIZE CATALOG.

It is easy to sell these Xmas Packs to your family, friends, and neighbors. Each pack contains 96 sparkling Xmas Seals in brilliant colors—a big value. When sold, send us the money and choose your prize from our Big Prize Catalog.

Mail the coupon today for Xmas Packs and our Big Prize Catalog—tell us what prize you want. SEND NO MONEY—WE TRUST YOU.

AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO., Dept. 710, Lancaster, Pa.

AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO., DEPT. 710 LANCASTER, PA.

Please send me your Big Prize Catalog and one order of 40 Xmas Packs. I will resell them at 10c each, send you the money, and get my prize.

My choice of prize is________________

Name________________

Street Address or R.F.D. Box________________

City________________

State________________